

Mr Foot's compromise eases crisis over Labour right wing

Mr Foot, leader of the Labour Party, yesterday persuaded Mr Wedgwood Benn to withdraw a motion which in effect demanded a pledge of loyalty from right-wingers, including Mrs Williams. Nevertheless, she opposed Mr Foot's successful compromise motion because it involved accepting the present party programme.

'Loyalty' resolution withdrawn

By George Clark
Political Correspondent

Taking a realistic view of the prospect that the Labour Party will break up into dissident factions if order is not restored, the party national executive yesterday patched up the differences between the battling left and right-wing groups.

Mr Michael Foot, the leader, tried to secure a compromise at a national executive meeting that lasted about four hours. With the support of Mr Denis Healey, the deputy leader, he and some success and Labour MPs last night said the result had been a draw.

Mr Wedgwood Benn, now a member of the Shadow Cabinet as a result of Mr William Rodgers' resignation, was persuaded to withdraw a long resolution which, in effect, demanded an oath of loyalty from dissident right-wingers.

Mr Benn wanted them to support the manifesto which will be presented at the next general election and called on "all individual and affiliated members of the party to endorse this call personally and to seek support for it in all constituency Labour parties."

Mr Foot offered a compromise resolution which declared that the executive reaffirmed its determination to work together for the return of a Labour government committed in traditional socialist principles and to parliamentary democracy.

It was based upon a manifesto agreed between the NEC and the parliamentary committee of the Labour Party.

That reassured the role of Labour MPs in deciding the terms of the next manifesto, but it went on to ask for all members of the executive, MPs, candidates, and councillors to campaign against the Tory government and to "fight for its programme, principles, and policies of the Labour Party."

Mrs Shirley Williams agreed with the method of drawing up the manifesto, but jibbed that the use that friends would go into the next general election to "fight for the programme" of the Labour Party. She made clear that she disagreed with many items in that programme.

Mrs Williams is a leading personality among those who are launching the new social democratic group in protest at

the extreme left-wing group, was permitted to operate as a party within a party she did not see that anyone had any right to ask her any questions at all.

Mr Foot then challenged her. He said the real issue was whether she was forming another political party.

Mr Roy Jenkins had clearly stated that that was the objective. Mr Foot said: "If you are engaged in such a proposition, those of us who are staying in the party would fight it tooth and nail."

Mr Benn tried to force Mrs Williams into a declaration that she was leaving the party. "I say directly to Shirley, it is a matter of morality," Mr Benn said, "and we have the right to ask you that straight question."

Mrs Williams replied defiantly, again referring to the free reign given to the extreme left-wing groups. "You will only get that answer when you put that question to all groups in the party."

The resolution, which also referred to the crisis of unemployment caused by the Government's policies, was passed by a majority. Votes were not recorded.

Another crucial issue before the NEC concerned the procedure to be followed by the process of compulsory reselection of MPs and candidates for the next general election.

The model rules for constituency parties to follow, in the reselection process had been submitted by the party's organization committee. It was decided to send them back to the committee for further consideration.

Mr Dennis Skinner, MP for Bolsover and a member of the NEC, said after the meeting: "Shirley Williams is living on the immoral earnings of the Labour Party."

A Staff Reporter writes: Mrs Williams said last night: "I did not know the Labour Party had immoral earnings. I am amazed to hear it has."

"No need for change," Sir Harold Wilson, in an article in the Liverpool Daily Post today writes that there was no need to change the leadership election procedure at the recent party conference at Wembley (the Press Association reports). "It was good enough to elect Clement Attlee, Hugh Gaitskell, and the rest of us."

various items in Labour's present programme.

Last night Lord George Brown, a former Labour Cabinet minister, announced that he had become president of the Social Democratic Alliance, the organization proscribed by the party, and quite separate from the new groupings.

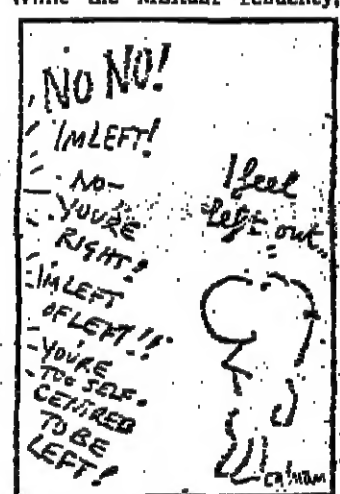
At yesterday's NEC meeting, Mrs Williams was supported in her arguments by Mr Tom Bradley, Labour MP for Leicester, East, and they both refused to vote for the compromise.

Mrs Williams moved an amendment to delete the reference to the party programme.

Welcoming the fact that Mr Benn had dropped what she called the "loyalty oath," she said that her 34 years' membership of the party should be sufficient guarantee of her devotion to the socialist cause.

She said she wanted to "pall her colours to the mast." She was opposed to any suggestion that Britain should withdraw from the EEC and to unilateral nuclear disarmament.

Mrs Williams took particular objection to the fact that she was being subjected to an acquisition about the activities of the social democratic group. While the Militant Tendency.



Britain has lowest strike total since 1941

By Frances Williams
Economics Staff

Britain had fewer strikes last year than in any year since 1941. Only 1,262 strikes were recorded, less than half the average for the previous 10 years and well below the 2,080 strikes in 1979.

The number of working days lost through stoppages was, however, boosted by the national steel strike early in 1980. This strike accounted for three-quarters of the days lost.

Department of Employment figures published yesterday also show that Britain's recent strike record belies the popular belief that it is exceptional strike-prone, compared with other industrial countries. Canada, the United States and Australia experience more strikes than the United Kingdom.

The 1,262 strikes arising from industrial disputes in 1980 is the lowest total for 39 years and compares with an average of 2,598 for the preceding decade.

About 11,910,000 working days were lost as a result, less than the average for the previous 10 years (12,870,000) and only 40 per cent of the 1979 total of 29,474,000.

Just six big strikes accounted for nearly 9.5 million working days lost in 1980. The 13-week national steel strike, from January 2 to April 2, accounted for 8.8 million days lost—74 per cent of the total. But in the second half of 1980 the number of days lost was the lowest since 1966.

There were fewer strikes in all industries except agriculture, forestry and fishing than in the previous year, though five days' losses from more working days' metal manufacture (as a result of the steel strike), agriculture, forestry and fishing, and inland water transport.

International comparisons, published in the January issue of the Department of Employment Gazette, show that Canada, the United States, Australia and New Zealand all lost more working days through strikes (per 1,000 employees) than the United Kingdom in the five years 1975-1979. But among EEC countries, only Italy and the Republic of Ireland had a worse record.

Minister tries to allay Nationality Bill storm

By Hugh Noyes
Parliamentary Correspondent

The British Nationality Bill was given a stormy reception yesterday when it came before the Commons for its second reading.

Mr Roy Hattersley, Labour's spokesman on home affairs, denounced the Government's proposals for a new nationality law as racist and discriminatory against women and pledged that the Opposition would oppose the Bill at all its stages.

In the Opposition's view this was not a nationality bill but an immigration control bill. He suggested that 90 per cent of its proposals worked to the disadvantage of the black community.

But, while Mr Hattersley was echoing the bitter criticism that has come from church leaders and ethnic minority groups, Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, gave a promise that where a case was made for changes to allay these fears, that would be considered by the Government as the legislation progressed.

The Bill, which creates three new categories of citizenship, has been attacked because of the fears it would raise among the ethnic minorities, who would not know where they stood under "this nightmare of bureaucratic complication."

Mr Whitelaw, however, while recognising that citizenship was a sensitive matter about which people felt strongly, claimed that many of the fears expressed were wholly misplaced. He could not understand how clauses one and two could be described as racially discriminatory.

Clause one stated that a child born here would be a British citizen at birth only if one of his parents was a British citizen or was settled here.

That provision took account of the increasing number of children born to visitors, students and others who were citizens of other countries.

Brussels orders inquiry into £990m BL aid

The government grant of £990m to British Leyland announced earlier this week is to be delayed for two months while the European Commission examines its compatibility with the EEC's fair trade rules.

Prime Minister, Mrs Thatcher, has appealed to Mrs Thatcher to postpone BL's decision to close its Belgian assembly plant at Seneffe.

Muslim states drop Afghan insurgents

Islamic Conference nations, meeting in Saudi Arabia, have asked the United Nations to appoint a special representative to mediate between Afghanistan and her neighbours.

The initiative effectively means that the Muslim states have abandoned the Afghan insurgents who are fighting the Soviet occupation troops. No criticism was made of Russia.

Mr Haig rules out arms supply to Iran

Mr Alexander Haig, the Secretary of State, ruled out any supply of arms to Iran. Arms ordered before the seizure of hostages would be sold elsewhere and the money returned to Iran. He refused to commit himself to a possible new American trade embargo remarking that there were additional American hostages in Iranian hands. But he expected Washington to fulfil its obligations to Iran in accordance with the law.

Giscard world view

In a televised interview President Giscard d'Estaing said there was a shift in the positions of influence to the advantage of Russia. It would be wrong to call it a "fraud" but the term to have in mind was "stabilisation" of East-West relations.

Scotch to go up 30p

The retail price of Scotch whisky is likely to rise by 30p a bottle at the end of next month. The leading distilleries are raising prices because of increased costs as consumption falls at home and abroad.

Swiss drugs company may be sued

Mr Stanley Adams, who was held in Switzerland on charges of industrial espionage after exposing malpractices at Hoffmann-La Roche, the drugs company, is hoping to sue the Swiss government and the company.

Safety of drugs: Simplified drug testing before trials on humans is proposed by the Committee on Safety of Medicines

Action to protect rare birds of prey from poisons bait is vital, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds says.

Spain: "Work to rule" by air traffic controllers and temporary stoppages by railwaymen disrupt communications

Classified advertisements: Personal, pages 26, 28; La crème de la crème, 25; Appointments, 20; Recruitment opportunities, 26.

Political storm likely over challenge to BL just days after £990m aid is agreed

Datsun wins approval to build first car plant in Britain

By Peter Hill
Industrial Editor

Nissan Datsun, Japan's largest car makers, is to establish a manufacturing plant in Britain. The company, whose plans have received the approval of the Government, is expected to announce its scheme in more detail later today. It will involve the construction of a new factory on a "greenfield" site and will almost certainly be located in an assisted area, where companies enjoy Government finance in the form of cash loans and grants.

Nissan's announcement is expected to be followed by a Government statement to Parliament. It is bound to provoke enormous controversy, since it comes within three days of the Government agreeing to provide almost £1,000m to British Leyland to cover the first two years of the group's latest recovery plan.

Nissan has been making detailed studies of prospects in

the European market despite the fact that Japanese car manufacturers have been under strong attack over the imports they have made into the European market.

Talks are taking place in Tokyo between EEC officials and representatives of the Japanese government aimed at securing Japanese agreement to curb exports of "sensitive items" to the EEC. Fears have mounted in Europe about the effect of Japanese exports on employment in the community.

A Nissan plant in Britain would mark a departure by the Japanese companies who, until now, have either shipped cars direct from Japan or have entered into collaborative ventures with European manufacturers. The recent link up between BL and Honda, under which BL will assemble the Triumph Acclaim, was the first venture by the Japanese in the United Kingdom.

Discussions have been taking

place between the British Government and Nissan for some months. The possibility of the company making cars in the United Kingdom—and thus providing it with an important springboard into the EEC market—was discussed last year during a visit to Britain by a Japanese trade mission.

Government endorsement of the project is bound to provoke a major parliamentary storm since it is, apparently, Nissan's intention to produce medium-sized cars which will compete directly with the LC 10 range which BL is planning to launch in about two years time. BL has earmarked much of the £990m to this project.

If, as expected, Nissan decides to locate its new plant in one of the assisted areas it will provide a much-needed boost to employment. The recession is leading to widespread redundancies and short time working throughout the motor industry and among the

companies supplying components.

The Nissan scheme seems certain to compromise a new round of discussions between the Japanese car manufacturers and their European counterparts which take place in Lisbon early next month. Japanese companies have already agreed to another year of voluntary restraint.

Last year their share of the market rose from 10.78 per cent to 11.9 per cent. A sales freeze by Nissan in the United Kingdom which is the largest Japanese exporter to Britain, helped to curb the market share, but it remained higher than expected.

The Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders has made it clear that it wants to secure agreement at the forthcoming talks in Lisbon on the size of the United Kingdom market this year which is expected to be at least 7 per cent on last year's levels.

In the talks which are taking place in Tokyo between the EEC and the Japanese Government, the high level of shipments of cars to the European Community is at the top of the agenda. In the first eight months of last year Japanese shipments of cars to the EEC rose by almost 20 per cent compared with the previous year.

Against that background, Renault of France has given a warning to the Belgian government that it will reduce its investment and operations in that country if imports of Japanese vehicles are left unchecked. Yesterday BL announced that it was closing its plant at Seneffe with the loss of 2,500 jobs.

But after the freeze on sales by Nissan towards the end of last year, Japanese car exports to the United Kingdom in the first 10 days of this month accounted for 15 per cent of total sales.

South African election called 18 months early

From Nicholas Ashford
Johannesburg, Jan 28

South Africa is to hold a general election among white voters on April 29, 18 months earlier than is necessary under the constitution.

Confirming persistent speculation that an early poll was planned, Mr Pieter Botha, the Prime Minister, speaking during the third day of the no confidence debate in the Cape Town Parliament this afternoon, said he placed himself and his government "in the hands of the country with faith."

He added: "I know that they, like us, want to maintain security and progress."

The present session of Parliament, which opened only last Friday, will be dissolved in June, a month after approving a mini-budget which will see the country through until the post-election Parliament is installed. Nomination day has been fixed for March 23.

Mr Botha said his reason for calling an early election was because some 30 parliamentary and provincial by-elections were due in the near future.

The by-elections have been necessitated by the transfer of 12 MPs to the new multiracial President's Council, last August's Cabinet reshuffle and a recently-completed round of constituency delimitations.

It would have been a waste of energy for the country and the political parties to hold so many by-elections and then a general election later on, he said.

However, it is clear that a number of other factors have prompted the Prime Minister to go for an early poll. Principal among them is the strife within the ruling National Party between Verwoerd (conservatives) and Verligtes (reformists) over Mr Botha's plans for constitutional change and other cautiously reformist measures.

Commenting on the election announcement Mr Frederick Zyl Slabbert, leader of the official Opposition Progressive Federal Party (PFF) said Mr Botha wanted to divert attention

away from his party's internal difficulties. Mr Vause Raw, leader of the middle-of-the-road New Republic Party (NRP), said the election was "phony."

There can be little doubt that Mr Botha was concerned that disgruntled right-wing nationalist Afrikaners might have used the state of by-elections to embarrass the government by voting for the extreme right-wing Herstigte Nasionale Party (HNP).

By holding a general election, on the other hand, Mr Botha clearly hopes to sweep even the most disillusioned National Party supporters behind him as he rallies the country to stand up to the "total onslaught" being directed against it by the Soviet Union, black Africa and the United Nations.

Another reason is that he wants a clear mandate for his government's policies rather than continuing to rely on the mandate won by his predecessor, Mr John Vorster, in the 1977 general election.

Having won the endorsement of the electorate he will then be able to confront the powerful Verkrampste faction within his party, led by Dr Andries Treurnicht, Minister of State Administration and leader of the party in the Transvaal, which has been trying to block Mr Botha's proposed reforms.

The most important of these reforms takes effect next week when the new President's Council (comprising whites, Coloureds and Indians, but not blacks) begins sitting to consider future constitutional developments in the country.

Although the council has only advisory powers it is the first time a multiracial institution of this kind has been established in South Africa.

Spy arrested: Security police have arrested a Soviet national on charges of spying in South Africa for the KGB, Mr Botha told Parliament in Cape Town today. The Prime Minister named the alleged spy as Major Alexei Mikhailovich Kozlov, a senior officer in the KGB.

Mr Botha described the arrest as the greatest of "almost importance for the national security."



Sir Hugh Fraser (right) shakes hands with Mr Roland "Tiny" Rowland after the meeting.

Lonrho bids for Fraser as chairman is dismissed

By Philip Robinson
Financial Staff

Sir Hugh Fraser was dismissed as chairman of the House of Fraser yesterday during a board meeting at which Mr Roland "Tiny" Rowland, his new ally, launched a £150m takeover bid for Britain's largest stores group, whose properties include Harrods.

The bid has been rejected by the majority of House of Fraser directors. Professor Roland Smith, Sir Hugh's successor, appointed £50,000 a year non-executive deputy chairman last August, said: "It is far too cheap."

Sir Hugh's departure was announced by Professor Smith in a short statement after the meeting. Flanked by two lawyers, he said: "I have a very short and simple announcement to make. A meeting of the board of directors of the House of Fraser was held today. Professor Roland Smith was appointed chairman of the company in place of Sir Hugh Fraser. The voting was 12 in favour, two against, one abstention, and one absent. Mr Peter Humphries has been appointed deputy chairman."

He then pushed his way from the fifth floor press conference at Bakers in Kensington, London, refusing to answer further questions.

Details of the board meeting are confused, but it is understood that at the 10 am start, Mr Rowland said Lonrho owners of 29.94 per cent of shares, would bid 150p a share on condition that Sir Hugh stayed as chairman.

The directors asked for an adjournment which lasted an hour while they considered the bid. They contacted Capcove their stockbrokers, asking for the shares to be suspended on the stock market, but were advised to wait until after the adjournment, as they never were suspended. S. G. Warburton, Fraser's merchant bank advisers said: "Reject all offers and do not move."

On resumption of the meeting, the directors decided to go on with their vote on Sir Hugh. Mr Rowland informed them that despite this he intended to go ahead with the takeover bid.

For almost 75 minutes the board, debated, who would replace Sir Hugh. Mr Ernest Sharp, brought in with Profes-

sor Smith last year, was apparently an alternative choice, but he declined to be considered.

It is understood that he is unhappy with the internal politics. Professor Smith was proposed, but even then 11 of the 15 directors voted against his becoming an executive chairman.

H-block hunger strike threatened after republican prisoners go on rampage

From Craig Seton
Belfast

A new hunger strike over the H-block in Northern Ireland's Maze prison was threatened yesterday after 96 republican prisoners smashed furniture and windows in a clean cells they moved into only two weeks ago.

It was the most serious incident in the uneasy approach to an attempted settlement of the H-block issue since the 53-day hunger strike by seven republican prisoners ended in mid-December.

Late on Tuesday night tables, chairs, bookcases, and other furniture were smashed and windows broken by the prisoners who have been put back into unfortified cells. There were allegations that some of them were assaulted.

The men were among those who had given up smearing cell walls with excrement, although they were still refusing prison issue clothing.

The H-block committee in Belfast said last night that the whole issue, which originally started over demands for political status, was "slipping back to square one."

The committee accused the Government of intransigence and inflexibility in implementing improvements in conditions and expectations of which had led to the ending of the original hunger strike, and said that a new strike was possible.

Mr Joseph Austin, for Sinn Féin, also said last night: "The whole atmosphere is extremely dangerous. The men are talking about another hunger strike."

Tension has been increasing in the H-block since the weekend, when 20 of the men were refused permission to wear clothing brought to the prison by relatives.

Last night the H-block information centre in Belfast said it had heard that many of the 96 prisoners had been assaulted while being moved to other cells and that one prisoner had suffered what appeared to be a heart attack.

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HOME NEWS

TUC demands priority for unemployment at Thatcher meeting

By Paul Routledge
Labour Editor

The TUC is to overturn the protocol for proceedings at next week's meeting of the National Economic Development Council (NEDC) with a demand that unemployment should take precedence on the agenda.

Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, is to chair the tripartite discussions on Wednesday between the Government, employers and trade union leaders which were originally proposed as a general debate on the economic outlook.

But after the latest unemployment figures showed more than 2,400,000 registered jobless, Mr Len Murray, general secretary of the TUC, said yesterday: "I do not care what the subject is. Unemployment will be the main issue."

He was speaking after the TUC General Council had expressed outrage at the record level of unemployment which meant that one in 10 workers is without a job.

Even these shocking figures fail to record the true level of unemployment by counting those ignoring those on short-time working, those who do not register and those working on special schemes," Mr Murray said. The TUC insists that the real level of unemployment is more than three million.

The general council expressed its deep dismay at the Government's "uncaring rejection of the now overpowering case for

the adoption of an alternative strategy."

Unemployment is now "indisputably the most vital problem facing the nation", the council said in a statement.

There is some common ground between the TUC and the CBI and that may disconcert ministers next Wednesday. At one of the regular dinners between union leaders and the employers' organization earlier this week, joint anxiety was expressed over interest rates, the high value of sterling, the high cost of energy to industry and the emasculation of some of its parts.

The TUC is to publish its annual economic review early next week, NEDC meeting, a programme of industrial and social recovery. In the meantime, Mr Murray yesterday attacked the view of some ministers that the huge number of jobless could be regarded as a reservoir of workers available for the time when the economy picks up.

"This is a callous, eighteenth-century approach to human problems and problems of national concern," he said.

Whatever the outcome of next week's NEDC meeting, the TUC is going ahead with a campaign week from April 4 to 12, during which public demonstrations will draw attention to trade union alternatives to the Government's economic policies.

Shipowner is facing expulsion

British shipowners are planning to take action against Canadian Pacific for reaching a pay agreement with the National Union of Seamen.

The General Council of British Shipowners' general policy committee decided yesterday to call a general meeting on February 12 to consider a resolution to expel the company from the organization.

Mr Adrian Swire, the council's president, said: "There was a very strong feeling among the membership that the action taken by Canadian Pacific in separately settling with the NUS meant that they could no longer be considered as reliable supporters of the organization."

A joint NUS and company statement said on Monday that the agreement satisfied the principles of the NUS claim, which the union assesses as worth between 16 and 17 per cent.

Threat to mine: Production at Westcoast colliery, at South Shields, Tyne and Wear, is threatened with closure by the seamen's dispute after barges have been prevented from dumping stone and shale out at sea.

Dockers at Aberdeen end dispute

From Our Correspondent
Aberdeen

Dockers in Aberdeen returned to normal working yesterday after a pay dispute lasting three and a half weeks that closed Britain's chief North Sea oil-field depot.

The swift end to the dispute came after discussions between the men's union and employers on Tuesday under the mediation of the Arbitration, Conciliation and Advisory Service.

A slightly improved offer recommended by both Mr Mel Keenan, the union's docks officer, and the dockers' committee was accepted by the men at a mass meeting early yesterday.

The dispute began when the employers offered a 13 to 14 per cent wage increase which the men said amounted to only 10.1 per cent on their basic pay.

The employers, Aberdeen Stevedoring Company, said: "It was a reshuffling of the offer already made, there was no substantial increase."

Describing the offer as a "marginal improvement", Mr Keenan praised the role of ACAS in bringing the parties together.

Civil Service strike plan approved by delegates

By Donald Macintyre
Labour Reporter

Delegates representing 107,000 members of the Society of Civil and Public Servants (SCPS) yesterday overwhelmingly approved contingency plans for selective continuous strikes, coupled with wider "lightning" industrial action, in support of a claim for rises of 19 per cent.

The unions' leaders won approval from 750 delegates for their plans for disruptive action aimed at causing serious damage to government operations if ministers stand by their policy that Civil Service pay increases from April will be determined by the 6 per cent cash limit.

Meanwhile, in another critical sector of the public service, the water industry, fears of a confrontation remained when employers gave no sign of improving their 7.9 per cent offer, which was heavily rejected by the three unions representing 33,000 employees.

The National Water Council, whose negotiators met briefly last night, would say only that it could not make any decision known until after the three unions meet next on February 3.

The Transport and General Workers' Union announced that members had rejected the offer by eleven to one and voted in favour of industrial action by a majority of nine to one.

The National Union of Public Employees said its members had endorsed rejection of the offer by a 90 per cent majority, and the largest of the three General and Municipal Workers' Union, whose executive on Friday sanctioned industrial action if necessary, said that there had been heavy votes against the offer in all eleven regions.

Despite the tough stance of the SCPS yesterday, a final decision on the Civil Service union's strategy will not be taken until a joint meeting of their leaders on February 26.

It will also depend in large part on the biggest Whitehall union, the Civil and Public Services Association, which is holding its own special conference in London today and is expected to hold branch meetings and secret ballots as part of its consultation process.

The strategy envisaged by the SCPS, which hopes its own proposal for 19 per cent increases will find favour with the other unions, is in two parts.

One part will be a series of limited and sudden stoppages or local stoppages opening with a government-wide one-day strike early in March.

The other tactic will be continuous selective stoppages aimed at specific targets.

Debate on economy

The Government has agreed to have a debate on the economy and unemployment next Thursday after repeated requests from Mr Michael Foot, Leader of the Opposition.



Mrs Shirley Williams and Mr Tom Bradley (top) arriving for the Labour Party executive's meeting yesterday. Above: Mr Michael Foot and Mr Wedgwood Benn.

Unions call summit meeting in attempt to heal Labour rifts

By Our Labour Editor

Leaders of all the unions affiliated to the Labour Party are being summoned to a "summit" meeting next month in an attempt to heal deepening rifts within the movement.

The invitation will go out from the Trade Unions for Labour Victory (TULV) organization, which has been split by political infighting that came into the open at the party's special conference at Wembley last weekend.

At stake is the continuing existence of the organization itself, the body set up by Labour-loyalist unions just before the 1979 election to generate funds and mobilize the vast union vote.

About 10 union leaders gathered yesterday in Congress House after the monthly TUC council meeting. They decided that an effort must be made to get the Labour Party out of its worsening financial crisis.

The party has run up a deficit of £500,000, as disclosed in *The Times* on January 21, and it is becoming increasingly difficult to bridge the gap between affiliation income and operating costs.

But the issue of financing Labour's deficit is bedevilled by continuing political arguments between the unions, which are divided in their backing for left-wing and moderate proposals for constitutional reform.

There was an acrimonious inquest yesterday on the vote switched and tactical manoeuvres by some unions at the Wembley conference. That resulted in the party being saddled with an electoral college to elect the Labour leader with 40 per cent of the votes going to the unions and the remainder divided equally between MPs and the constituency parties.

Leading figures in TULV last night declined to comment on their discussions, but it seems clear that proposals to give the body a formal constitution will be shelved indefinitely.

One union leader confessed that Labour-loyalists were depressed after their preferred formula for an electoral college giving MPs half the votes failed to win the expected majority support of unions last Saturday.

Nobody wanted TULV to collapse; they wanted to keep it going, whatever happens," he said. That was the impetus behind the decision to call a meeting of affiliated unions next month.

Mr Steel says alliance could win

By Michael Hatfield
Political Reporter

Labour's agonizing over its future last night gave Mr David Steel leader of the Liberal Party the golden opportunity to state that it was the chance "to do what so many of us have dreamt for years."

The chance, he said in a televised party political broadcast, was to break the mould of a failed political system and to produce a realignment of the progressive and hopeful forces in Britain.

Mr Steel's interpretation of events came after a meeting of Shadow Cabinet at which there was a brief inquiry on the special party conference.

Though there was no collective view in the sense of a Shadow Cabinet policy commitment, it was felt that there would have to be a reversal of the leadership electoral system at the annual conference in October.

That will mean a further nine months of internal dispute, a party division that Mr Steel exploited in his broadcast. The people of Britain, he said, wanted things to change.

In a reference to the potential break-away Council for Social Democracy, headed by Labour moderates, Mr Steel said: "If the social democrats' valuable experience of government is added to our nationwide community campaigning experience, I believe we could create an unstoppable combination."

Mr Steel, who said it was well known that he had been having private discussions with several Labour MPs and that he understood their anguish, stated that the country "desperately needs a great new political alliance to make our mixed economy work and turn our country back from the loop record of division and decline."

He added: "But growing support on the ground is even more important than the big names at the top."

The Liberal leader described the special party conference as a turning point in British politics which was not just bad for the Labour Party but bad for Britain.

Viewers would be familiar with countries where ultimate power had passed from a freely elected parliament to the "central committee of the party".

Leading article, page 15

Assurances on 'Times' supplements sought

By Diana Geddes
Education Correspondent

Mr Rupert Murdoch is to be invited to appear before the Commons Select Committee on Education, Science and the Arts to give further assurances on his plans for the three supplements of *The Times*.

All parliamentary select committees have the power to ask for any "persons, papers and records" that they wish, subject to only a few limitations. If Mr Murdoch declines the committee's invitation, he could be summoned to appear, non-compliance with a summons would constitute a contempt of Parliament.

Mr Christopher Price, chairman of the education select committee, said yesterday that "because of the concern that the guarantees given by Mr Murdoch to the Secretary of State for Trade in respect of *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* do not appear to be extended to the supplements, the committee has decided to ask Mr Murdoch to give us assurances on this issue."

The committee hoped that Mr Murdoch would come before it within the next fortnight, Mr Price said.

In the debate on *Times* Newspapers in the House of Commons on Tuesday, Mr John Biffen, Secretary of State for Trade, announced that he had decided to consent to the sale of *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* to Mr Murdoch, without reference to the Monopolies Commission, subject to certain conditions on the editorial independence and integrity of those two papers. No mention was made of the three supplements.

Mr Murdoch left last night for a week's visit to Australia. Although he had received no formal invitation, he had been informed of the committee's intention to issue such an invitation, but had no comment to make.

He asked that all inquiries be addressed to Sir Denis Hamilton, chairman and editor-in-chief of *Times Newspapers Holdings Limited*.

Sir Denis said that he would be writing to Mr Price today explaining that Mr Biffen had intended to tell the Commons during Tuesday's debate that he had been assured by Mr Murdoch that all the principles which guaranteed the two papers applied "in equivalent measure" to the three supplements.

Sir Denis explained that Biffen could not include reference to the supplements in his main statement as Fair Trading Act, 1973, which laid down the conditions for referral of newspaper mergers to the commission, applied only to newspapers and not periodicals as the three supplements were deemed to be.

However, he and the three editors of the supplements received "totally satisfactory promises from Mr Murdoch both the editorial independence and integrity of the supplements and his commitment to their financial prosperity a development."

He said that Mr Murdoch intended to increase the number of supplements certain to four, and possibly to six. Sir Denis said that he hoped his letter to Mr Price would settle the matter, and that Mr Murdoch would not now be required to appear before the committee.

Decision questioned: Mr John Smith, the Labour spokesman for trade, last night questioned the government's decision not to refer the papers' transfer of ownership to the Monopolies Commission. He wrote to Mr Biffen asking him to make available as far as possible the figures and working papers.

Considerable concern exists over the basis on which Sir Biffen satisfied himself that *Sunday Times* was "not economic as a going concern" and that the *Times* would become a "coarser" paper under the ownership of Mr Murdoch, Dr Conor Cruise O'Brien, editor-in-chief of *The Observer*, forecast yesterday (the Press Association report).

But the paper would stay the upper reaches of the market and would probably more successful commercial he said in an LBC radio interview.

Letters, page

Reuters chief to move

Mr Gerald Long, managing director of Reuters Ltd, said yesterday that he would retire from the news agency to become managing director of *Times Newspapers Limited* (TNL) if Mr Rupert Murdoch succeeded in buying the group.

Mr Long said in a message to all Reuters staff that he had informed the board of Reuters that he might ask to be released in the immediate future if Mr Murdoch secured acceptable conditions for the ownership of *The Times* and *The Sunday Times*.

He said that the board was aware of his wish to retire from Reuters on reaching the age of 60 in 1983.

"Mr Murdoch has offered me the possibility of a challenging and worthwhile task which I will tackle with enthusiasm if it falls to me."

Mr Long said he had worked for Reuters for more than 32 years, almost 18 of them as chief executive.

"Whatever I do now, Reuters will have been the main interest of my working life, and nothing can be closer to me as the continued wellbeing of the company. I must therefore be satisfied, and I am satisfied that my leaving would not damage the company."

Mr Dugal Nisbet-Smith, managing director of TNL, said in a statement: "I have already indicated that in the event of Mr Murdoch's bid for *Times Newspapers* being successful, I would wish to resign as managing director. I have, of course discussed this matter with the Thomson Organisation which has asked me to remain with them and I am considering this."

Esther Rantzen fined £15

Esther Rantzen, the television personality, was fined £15 at Southwark Magistrates' Court, London, yesterday, for causing an obstruction by stopping people in the street and asking them to taste her stew and fried fish.

Miss Rantzen, who was getting opinions on the recipe for her *That's Life* show, was convicted after a 22-minute film of her arrest was shown in court. She pleaded not guilty.

The police told Mr Kenneth Harrington, the magistrate, that Miss Rantzen and a film crew to watch the test in North End Road, Fulham, London.

After the hearing Mr Rantzen, who said an agent was being chased to make a film, was worried about the implications of the case.

Students turn on faculty board

By John Witherow

The crisis within the English faculty at Cambridge University deepened yesterday as students passed a vote of no confidence in the faculty's board and demanded it should be suspended pending an independent inquiry.

A meeting of about three hundred students, third of the faculty, also called on the university's secretary-general to set up an inquiry into the failure of the department's appointments committee to upgrade Dr Colin MacCabe, a radical lecturer who is at the centre of the dispute.

The faculty board, which has 20 elected members, three of them students, is responsible for drawing up regulations for the department, recommending new appointments, controlling the Tripos, and selecting texts.

The previous board twice recommended last year that Dr MacCabe, an assistant lecturer in the faculty for five years

and an exponent of structuralism, should be given a full-time post. That was rejected by the appointments committee.

The rejection has caused the bitter dispute within the faculty since Dr F. R. Leavis took on Professor Sir Arthur Quiller-Couch and Dr E. M. V. Tillyard in the 1930s.

Dr MacCabe's supporters say that the more conservative dons are trying to block relatively new linguistic teaching methods and thus threatened academic freedom. The so-called traditionalists, who include Professor Christopher Ricks, deny that and say Dr MacCabe was not promoted because of criticism of his teaching abilities.

Some of the progressive dons were voted off key committees or resigned in protest, provoking new appointments of no confidence in the board.

The faculty is rife with rumours of libel writs being prepared and dons being dragged before venerable university courts for leaking accounts of confidential meetings.

"It has become a considerable embarrassment to the university and frankly it is time the English faculty put its house in order", one university official said.

Whatever the reason for the refusal to promote Dr MacCabe, the dispute has divided dons and students, as was shown at yesterday's meeting when undergraduates were undecided whether the split was damaging teaching within the faculty or encouraging open and healthy debate.

The students' motions will be put in the form of a resolution to a meeting of the Senate next Tuesday, chaired by Sir Peter Swinnerton-Dyer, the vice-chancellor.

Senate meetings are normally reserved for Masters of Arts, although undergraduates can attend. Sir Peter has agreed to make 300 seats available to students.

Irish taxes and welfare benefits raised

An early general election in the Irish Republic became slightly likely yesterday with a Budget statement in Dublin that greatly increased taxation on petrol and consumer luxuries such as drink and tobacco but raised welfare benefits by a quarter.

In his statement, Mr Ceara Fitzgerald, Minister of Finance, announced a 15p a gallon increase on petrol, bringing it to £1.80, 25p on a bottle of wine, 50p on champagne, 6p on a pint of beer, 10p on a packet of 20 cigarettes, and 12p on a glass of spirits.

Test case on part-time woman workers' pay being heard in EEC court

By a Staff Reporter

An Advocate General in the EEC court in Luxembourg yesterday advised the European judges to rule against a British woman part-time worker who is claiming the same hourly rate of pay that a full-timer gets.

Mr Advocate General Warner's opinion, given yesterday, might influence the judges to rule against Mrs Jeanette Jenkins, a machinist with Kingsgate (Clothing Productions) Ltd.

The case, which is being brought by Mr Anthony Lester QC, former political adviser to

Mr Roy Jenkins when he was Home Secretary, is seen as a test case on part-time woman workers' pay. It is being supported by the Equal Opportunities Commission who have found that the British equal pay Act cannot be used to challenge pay differentials for part-time employees who are mainly women.

The case was referred to Luxembourg by the Employment Appeal Tribunal which wanted to know whether the pay differential broke Article 119 of the Treaty of Rome on equal pay or the Equal Pay Directive. Mrs Jenkins said it did.

Warner said yesterday that neither the treaty nor the directive required that part-time workers should be paid the same full-timers. But he added that where there was a difference in pay, the Treaty of Rome required employers to justify this difference on objective grounds unconnected with sex discrimination.

To that extent the treaty had a direct effect on member states of the EEC. Kingsgate argued that it paid part-timers less per hour to discourage the full-time workers from moving to part-time work and to make most use of machinery.

Nationality Bill defended

Continued from page 1

here only temporarily. A person's racial origin was not relevant, Mr Whitelaw said.

Clause two stated that a child born outside the United Kingdom would be a British citizen if at the time of birth his father or mother was a British citizen by virtue of birth in the United Kingdom.

The Bill changed the position whereby citizens by naturalization or registration could transmit citizenship overseas in the same way as citizens by birth.

Although there was room for argument about the principle, Mr Whitelaw could not see how that proposal could be described as racially discriminatory.

On the criticism that the Bill discriminated against women, the Home Secretary said that the suggestion could not seriously be made.

It could not be said, as Mr Hattersley had argued, that a provision which treated husbands and wives alike was discriminatory against women.

Mr Whitelaw gave an assurance that there was no provision in the Bill that deprived people living in this country of any of their civil rights. Although some of the provisions were understandable, there were no real grounds for them.

He appealed to everyone expressing those fears, and to the church leaders, to consider again what he had said. He was most concerned to remove the basis for the misunderstandings and was anxious that people should not be alarmed unnecessarily.

Mr Whitelaw emphasized that the Bill would not adversely affect the position under the immigration law of anyone who was lawfully settled in the United Kingdom.

But none of this had much effect on Mr Hattersley. Labour, he said, wanted one main class of British citizen which would embrace everyone born or adopted in the United Kingdom, everyone born or adopted overseas whose parents were United Kingdom citizens, and wives and husbands of British citizens.

Parliamentary report, page 9

Weather forecast and recordings

NOON TODAY Pressure is shown in millibars. Fronts warm, cold, occluded. Symbols as on accompanying map.

Today

Sun rises: 7.44 am. Sun sets: 4.45 pm.
Moon rises: 1.44 am. Moon sets: 11.45 am.

New moon: February 4.
Lighting up: 5.15 pm to 7.12 am.
High water: London Bridge, 7.44 am, 5.7m; 8.20 pm, 5.8m; Avonmouth, 9.08 am, 5.7m; 8.20 pm, 5.7m; Dover, 5.02 am, 5.7m; 8.20 pm, 5.7m; Liverpool, 5.15 am, 5.7m; 8.20 pm, 5.7m.
1 ft = 0.3048 m. 1 m = 3.2808 ft.

Pressure will remain high over Europe, trough will approach N. areas.

Forecast for 6 am to midnight:
London, SE, central S, E, central N, England, East Anglia, Midlands: Mostly cloudy, some drizzle early, mist or fog patches slowly thinning; wind S in SW, light; max temp 8° or 9° (46° or 48°F).
Channel Islands, SW, NW, NE England, Wales, Lake District, Borders, Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen: Dry, intervals in places, some early; wind S to SW, moderate; max temp 8° to 10° (46° to 50°F).
Ile of Man, SW Scotland, Glasgow, N Ireland: Rather cloudy, some brilliant intervals, perhaps a few outbreaks of light rain; wind SW, moderate to fresh, locally strong; max temp 8° to 10° (46° to 50°F).
Central Highlands, Moray Firth, NE, NW Scotland, Argyll, Orkney, Shetland: Mostly cloudy, outbreaks of rain or drizzle; wind SW, fresh or strong, locally gale, moderating later; max temp 8° or 9° (46° or 48°F).

Sea passages: S North Sea: wind S, light to moderate; sea, slight.

Outlook for tomorrow and Saturday: England and Wales will be mostly dry with overcast mists and fog patches slow to clear; Scotland and N Ireland will become changeable with rain at times but also brighter drier periods; it will remain generally mild.

WEATHER REPORTS YESTERDAY

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Pressure
London	13	SW	Cloudy	1015
Edinburgh	10	SW	Cloudy	1015
Aberdeen	8	SW	Cloudy	1015
Belfast	10	SW	Cloudy	1015
Cardiff	12	SW	Cloudy	1015
Manchester	11	SW	Cloudy	1015
Birmingham	12	SW	Cloudy	1015
Nottingham	11	SW	Cloudy	1015
Leeds	10	SW	Cloudy	1015
Sheffield	11	SW	Cloudy	1015
Blackpool	10	SW	Cloudy	1015
Liverpool	11	SW	Cloudy	1015
Belfast	10	SW	Cloudy	1015
Cardiff	12	SW	Cloudy	1015
Manchester	11	SW	Cloudy	1015
Birmingham	12	SW	Cloudy	1015
Nottingham	11	SW	Cloudy	1015
Leeds	10	SW	Cloudy	1015
Sheffield	11	SW	Cloudy	1015
Blackpool	10	SW	Cloudy	1015
Liverpool	11	SW	Cloudy	1015

Strait of Dover, English Channel (15): wind, S, light to moderate; sea, slight.

Yesterday: Temp: maximum 6 at 6 pm, 9°C (48°F); minimum 6 pm to 6 am, 7°C (45°F). Humidity: 6 pm, 88 per cent. Rain: 24hr to 6 pm, trace. Sea: 24hr to 6 pm, 1.039.2 millibar fall. 1,000 millibars = 29.53 in.

Overseas selling prices: 25.53 in.

"THE NEW PRINCESS 2200 HLS COSTS £6,482. THE VOLVO 244DL COSTS £6,656. FOR THE DIFFERENCE I WAS WILLING TO PAY THE DIFFERENCE"

This is the kind of thing a lot of motorists must have been saying over the past few months.

In 1980, car sales were down by over 12% but Volvo sales were actually up by nearly 5%.

Could it be that in these difficult times, people are turning to a car that's known to be durable and trouble free?

Could it be you should be joining them?

If you'd like to know more, fill in the coupon.

To: Volvo Customer Services, High Wycombe, Bucks. HP12 3PN. Please send me the 1981 Volvo Introduction Pack.

Name _____

Address _____

Post Code _____

VOLVO



Russian armour entering Kabul.

Next?

Will Russian tanks roar across the plains of Germany?

Will crises erupt somewhere so remote we all have to scour maps to find out where it is?

Will one of our NATO allies call for moral support on its borders?

Will we be asked to join an international peace-keeping force to separate the sides in a civil war?

Frankly, your guess is as good as ours.

The world is so unstable it could go critical at any time without so much as a warning light.

This is why we have made the Army much more mobile.

And why we always try to recruit the type of young man who can add calmness and good humour to a tense situation.

Now we need another 900 young Officers whom these men will follow, if necessary, to the ends of the earth.

A job with no guarantee of success.

You may well argue that your joining the Army would not have saved one life in Afghanistan.

We would go further, it might not save anyone's life, including your own.

On the other hand, it might.

It might, if enough like-minded men join with you, help to prevent a

nuclear war.

And it might, just might, hold the world together long enough for the powers of freedom and sweet reasonableness to prevail.

Some hopes?

Perhaps. But the alternative is no hope at all.

Hoping for the best, preparing for the worst.

Your part in this will be to prepare for a war everyone prays will never happen.

Depending on the job you choose, you will rehearse battle tactics in Germany.

Confront heat in Cyprus, Belize or Hong Kong.

And heat of a different sort in Northern Ireland.

You will practise, repair, train and try to forge links with your men that will withstand fire.

Occasionally, you may be asked to clamber into a VC10 on the way to, well, somewhere like monitoring a cease-fire in Rhodesia.

But more often, the worst enemy your men will face will be boredom, when it will take all your skills as a teacher and manager to motivate them.

Then it will be difficult to remember that you are still protecting your

country and all you love most.

An easy question to dodge.

The question is, are you prepared to take the job on for three years or longer?

No one will accuse you if you don't.

Women won't send you white feathers and children won't ask what you did in the war.

All we ask is that every young man at least takes the question seriously and answers it to the satisfaction of his own conscience.

This way we are bound to get our 900 new Officers.

If you are undecided but want to take the matter a stage further without committing yourself in any way, write to Major John Floyd, Army Officer Entry, Department A10, Lansdowne House, Berkeley Square, London W1X 6AA.

Tell him your date of birth, your educational qualifications and why you want to join us.

He will send you booklets to give you a far larger picture of the life and, if you like, put you in touch with people who can tell you more about the career.



Army Officer

Mr Whitelaw considers streamlining system of remands in custody

By Peter Evans
Home Affairs Correspondent

Mr William Whitelaw, Home Secretary, is thinking of streamlining the system under which people remanded in custody by magistrates have to be produced in court once every eight days.

Soundings about a possible change are expected to be taken of interested organisations. As an emergency measure during the present officers' dispute, Parliament waived the requirement for personal appearance in court by the accused during his period on remand in custody.

Last night the National Association of Probation Officers said they were very concerned if Mr Whitelaw were to introduce such a measure permanently. They strongly opposed it being introduced temporarily during the dispute, fearing it would remove a safeguard against abuse and injustice.

More than 40,000 people were remanded in custody by magistrates' courts in 1979. A survey has been made of 56 magistrates' courts during the officers' action to see the effect of the measure, which was introduced in section 2 of the Imprisonment (Temporary Provisions) Act, 1980.

Lord Belstead, Under Secretary of State at the Home Office, told the House of Lords on Tuesday night that it was clearly right that the effect of the ordinary law should be restored when practicable.

"Having said that, I think that we should all acknowledge that section 2 has worked with fairness and without trouble," he acknowledged that misgivings had been expressed, but added: "If in its practical application section 2 has had

effects which have worked to the disadvantage of defendants, I must say that they have not become evident to the Home Office."

The Home Office said last night that prisoners remanded in custody were in normal circumstances produced on weekly remand. Once they had had their committal proceedings, they were remanded to appear before the Crown Court at a given date.

Section 2 was introduced because prison officers in dispute over the meal break pay issue were refusing to admit prisoners from magistrates' courts. Numbers in police cells were increasing as a result.

The appearance of a prisoner on remand every eight days is widely acknowledged to be expensive.

Mr Geoffrey Norman, secretary of the Magistrates' Association, said last night that if magistrates could remand for more than eight days in appropriate cases, it would be welcomed provided there were appropriate safeguards. It would save manpower, court time and reduce security risks.

Mr Richard DuCann, QC, chairman of the Bar, thought that, with proper safeguards, some form of remanding the present procedure would be a perfectly tolerable step to take, perhaps by putting a new limit to the period a person could be held in custody on remand before it was necessary to produce them in court.

Prison officers at Strangeways prison, Manchester, have decided to resume industrial action. They have decided to reduce the population there to what the jail should officially hold. The prison is 270 inmates above the official capacity. Officers at 12 prisons are now engaged in action.

Concorde expected to be in service for 35 years

By Kenneth Owen
Technology Editor

British Airways is likely to continue operating the Concorde for a further 30 years if the rate of use remains at about the present level, a Commons committee was told yesterday.

That would mean that the aircraft had a total operating life of 35 years, an exceptionally high figure. The Commons Industry and Trade Committee was given these figures by Captain Brian Vanepe, flight manager (technical), Concorde, at British Airways.

By comparison with the airline's other long-range aircraft, Concorde use is low, ranging from 1,595 to 2,393 hours for 1980-81 (depending on whether the entire fleet or just the operating aircraft are counted); and from 1,032 to 2,063 hours estimated for 1981-82.

British Airways expects to speed between £65m and £75m a year on its Concorde fleet

over the next five years: £75.2m during the present financial year, £68.3m in 1982-83 and £75.1m in 1984-85. The largest single item is fuel, which accounts for 35 per cent of the total, rising to 37 per cent in 1984-85.

Mr Stephen Wheatcroft, British Airways director of economic development, told the committee that, in this financial year, the London-New York service was expected to make a profit of about £4m. Against that, losses on the Washington route were estimated at £2m and on the now-withdrawn Bahrain-Singapore service, £3m.

This year should show an overall operating deficit of about £6m on the airline's Concorde operations. Next year and in the following years the forecast was for a continuing profit of about £4m on the New York route and a deficit of about £3m to Washington, giving a predicted net annual operating profit of about £2m.

Drug safety testing may be simplified

By a Staff Reporter

Proposals to simplify safety testing of drugs before limited trials can begin in humans have been drawn up by the Committee on Safety of Medicines.

Complaints have been made that British tests are too stringent and that drug companies have transferred their investment from Britain.

Under the proposals, which are being circulated by the Department of Health, animal toxicity tests must still be carried out, but animal tests to show that drugs do not cause birth defects or affect fertility will not be needed before early, very limited, clinical trials can begin.

Instead, the proposals will allow trials normally involving not more than 30 patients for up to ten days before such tests are completed, on condition that women of child-bearing age are excluded.

The animal tests on fertility and birth defects may be run in parallel, and more information will be required as the clinical trials increase in scale.

A new test to ensure that the drug does not cause bacterial mutations, which may indicate a cancer risk, is also to be required before any clinical trials start.

The idea is to give drug companies the chance to find out earlier if a new compound is worth pursuing.

At present they complain that requirements can mean a drug goes through extensive and expensive animal testing to prove its long-term safety before it can be used in short-term trials in humans.

The committee on safety of medicines emphasized yesterday that the new requirements would not mean any increased risk to patients.

A covering letter says ministers accept that drug companies are making more clinical trials overseas and that research and development of drugs in the United Kingdom have probably suffered.

Poultry industry to be given subsidy of £2m

By Agriculture Correspondent

The Government is to pay subsidies worth up to £2m to poultry slaughterhouses in the next three months. The payments were announced yesterday by Mr Peter Walker, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, who had been insisting for months that he would not make them.

Mr Walker said after a meeting of poultry industry leaders that aid would be paid at a rate of half the cost of "eligible expenditure".

His announcement came after protest from the poultry industry that the cost of safety inspections in slaughterhouses abroad was being met by other EEC governments.

Scheme to reduce rates for ordinary shopkeepers to preserve character of the community

By Michael Horsnell

A new sex shop will open soon in Brewer Street, Soho; on the spot where until last week the House of Hamburgers dispensed the oak-smoked kippers that made it one of the best-loved delicatessens in London's "posh" village.

It will become the 164th "sexploitation" establishment in an area of less than one square mile and will hammer another nail into the theory that the local authorities responsible for Soho are taking a strong line on curtailing the proliferation of pornography.

In response to clean-up promises made in the Conservative draft manifesto for the Greater London Council elections in May, the preservationist Soho Society claims that 100 of the cinemas and sex shops do not have planning permission to operate as they do.

Mr Leslie Hardcastle, the society's chairman, said yesterday: "Existing controls just do not work and will not work. We are not Mary Whitehouses and we have tried to be tolerant. But it is the exploiters who have been intolerant. The time has come for a radical new approach."

In two moves announced yesterday, the Soho Society will encourage ordinary shopkeepers to demand a rates reduction, and press for legislation to force sex establishments to register with a new government body which would control the way they operate.

Mrs Lois Peltz, an independent councillor who represents Soho on Westminster City Council, said: "We want the kind of controlling agency, like the Gaming Board which regulates casinos, to be established to watch over the sex shops and cinemas, not only in Soho, but



Mrs Lois Peltz, a Westminster councillor, outside one of Soho's 164 sex establishments.

throughout the country. In the present state our laws are inadequate to protect us. Current arrangements are ludicrous, and so are the fines when anyone is convicted of breaking the law."

An important cause of the present difficulties is the confusion of authorities. The planning authority is Westminster, which also has powers to control so-called entertainment masquerading as private clubs, which have scope for all sorts of abuses.

The police find it difficult to trace the owners of establishments breaking the law and when they do often the ownership has changed hands.

As the law stands a restaur-

ant can be prevented from becoming a fish and chip shop, but not a sex shop.

A private member's Bill, introduced by Mr Timothy Sainsbury, Conservative MP for Hove, aimed at outlawing indecent displays from shop windows and newsagents' counters, has its second reading tomorrow.

Mr Sainsbury said: "There may be efforts to attach legislation on cinemas to my Bill in committee, but we have to wait and see. I think the Soho

Society has a real problem, so far as registering cinema scope for legislation. It is certainly something worth considering. Sex shops may be more difficult to cover. You do not want Boots to have a special licence because they sell contraceptives."

The Home Office confirms that no legislation is planned for the kind of control proposed by the Soho Society. The report of the Williams committee on obscenity, published 11 months ago, remains under consideration.

Three years ago Mr Bernard Brook-Parker, now chairman of the GLC, declared war on the illegal pornography merchants. Yesterday he said "The Soho Society is right; that the law has been totally inadequate and impossible to implement. But yet another change is not going to produce the answer."

"The Soho Society is taking a sledgehammer to crack a nut. A simpler way to deal with the problem, which would be to make private cinema clubs amenable to the same general licensing law as the public cinemas are."

Soho now has only 2,900 residents compared with 6,000 2 years ago. Greedy landlords forcing up the rents in order to push out the multitude of shopkeepers and craftsmen have helped cause the exodus.

Mr Hardcastle said: "We want to put pressure on Westminster City Council to reverse the trend by reducing the rate on ordinary shopkeepers or else Soho is going to die as a community."

New guidelines for releasing patients

By Lucy Hodges

The report of the inquiry set up in the wake of the case of Ronald Scales, who murdered a girl after his release from Broadmoor, says that arrangements for granting patients leave from special hospitals could be improved.

It contains guidelines that are being sent to all the special hospitals. Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for Social Services, told the House of Commons, his department published the report yesterday.

The guidelines, which the report says should be reviewed after they have been in effect for some time, recommend that any medical officer considering sending a patient on leave should take account of the views of other professional people.

The special hospitals are told that it is essential to record the basic details of decisions taken about a patient. Agencies outside the hospital should be consulted about a patient's leave and all disciplines within the hospital should be consulted on where the patient is going.

The police should be told whenever patients who were at one time restricted or who were detained after a conviction for serious sexual or violent offences are sent on leave. Those concerned with the patient's care after he leaves the hospital should also be involved in discussions and special hospitals should devote more attention to preparing patients to leave hospital.

It is believed that not all the guideline procedures were followed in the Scales case and there has been some criticism of the fact that other professional people were not consulted.

One of the main changes introduced by the guidelines is the police notification procedure. Until now the police have been told only when a restricted patient was given leave in their area.

Review of Leave Arrangements for Special Hospitals Patients (DBSS) PC Box 21, Stannmore, Middlesex. HA7 1AY; 21.

Threats and big rate rises linked

By Christopher Warman
Local Government Correspondent

Threats of new penalties against local authorities by the Government for overspending made big rate increases more likely, Mr Jack Smart, chairman of the Association of Metropolitan Authorities, said yesterday.

Speaking at a seminar of London authorities, he complained that Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, kept changing the targets for local government spending, and had now asked councils to cut their spending by 5.6 per cent in 1981-82 compared with 1978-79.

"Mr Heseltine has already confronted hard-pressed authorities with one target but a selection from which they can pick and choose. This is unjust, unwise, and counterproductive."

Mr Smart added: "There must be some moderate, responsible authorities who today will be deciding to put money on one side as a hedge against any possible sudden decision to impose. Thus every new threat Mr Heseltine makes, every new uncertainty he creates, adds to the prospect of big rate increases."

Mr Heseltine was determined to divide authorities into good and bad in a way that undermined the spirit of cooperation that had existed between local and central government.

Mr Richard Brew, deputy leader of the Greater London Council, which proposes a 17.6 per cent rate increase, said that although the GLC was making cuts, they would not reach one of the Government's targets.

The GLC would only be able to reduce spending by some 2 per cent next year compared with the present year, and not the 3.1 per cent proposed by the Government.

The GLC's proposed 17.6 per cent increase might go as high as 40 per cent when it reaches the boroughs, as a result of changes in government grant distribution.

Mr Fenton Bradler, for Mr Moss, said: "This is a matter which you can say is typical of the wear and tear of driving and parking in central London."

The prosecution said that at 11.55 pm on October 9, Mr Moss was driving his Honda van towards his home in Shepherd

Law on religion for schools to stay

By Diana Geddes
Education Correspondent

The Government has no intention of repealing the law requiring schools to hold daily religious assemblies and to provide religious instruction for all pupils, although many schools are in breach of the law.

That was made clear by Mr Mark Carlisle, Secretary of State for Education and Science, when he appeared before the Commons Select Committee on Education and Science yesterday.

Mr Christopher Price, chairman of the committee, asked Mr Carlisle if he intended to change the law on religious education given that everyone agreed that the letter of the law was dead.

Mr Carlisle accepted that the relevant words of the Education Act, 1944, were not always being carried out, but the Government was not re-drafting that Act, if that was what Mr Price meant.

Reference to religious education would be included in the Government's paper on the framework for the curriculum in schools, which was due to be published shortly.

Mr Carlisle agreed that there was a severe shortage of qualified teachers of religious education.

The department was encouraging teacher-training institutions to increase the number of places for students specializing in religious education. Re-entry to post-graduate certificate of education courses in religious education was 20 per cent higher than last year.

Mr Carlisle said yesterday that the cost of the M26 which was opened last November, at the A21 at the Sevenoaks junction, could not be justified.

Mr Clarke said yesterday that having considered traffic in the needs of the local community and industry and the economics involved he had concluded that the provision of the proposed slip roads offered the best solution.

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Moonies case defence plea rejected

The libel action involving the Moonies, entered its second stage yesterday when Mr Justice Cynyn in the High Court rejected a defence submission that the trial should end.

He dismissed a submission by Associated Newspapers that Mr Dennis Orme, the leader of the sect in the United Kingdom was not entitled to sue as he was not referred to in the allegedly libellous article published in the Daily Mail in May 1978, which accused the sect of brainwashing converts and described them as sinners.

Giving a reserved judgment on the defence submission, Mr Justice Cynyn said the article was reasonably capable of being understood as referring to Mr Orme. The jury would have to decide whether, in fact, the article pointed to him.

"If the allegations are true, there should be no place for this so-called church in this country," the judge added.

M26 users to get extra exit slip roads

Exit slip roads at a cost of about £1m are to be provided to the A225 from the M26 near Sevenoaks, Kent. The move comes after complaints that some drivers face an 18-mile journey before the next intersection near Gillingham.

Mr Kenneth Clarke, Parliamentary Secretary for Transport, said in a written Commons reply yesterday that detailed proposals for exit slip roads at Gillingham would be announced soon.

After a public inquiry it was decided that the cost of connections between the M26 which was opened last November, at the A21 at the Sevenoaks junction, could not be justified.

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Ancient power of binding over to be examined

By Our Legal Correspondent

The Law Commission is to examine the ancient power of magistrates to bind people over to keep the peace, to see whether it is still needed in the modern world.

Binding over was introduced in 1361 but has recently come under criticism.

It has, for instance, been known for an accused to be acquitted, but one of the witnesses to be bound over, even though he had done nothing that could form a criminal charge. The Law Commission anxious to receive information about the operation of the ancient power in practice.

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HOME NEWS

Man who exposed malpractices by drug company plans to sue Swiss Government and EEC

By Frances Gibb

Mr Stanley Adams, who exposed malpractices at Hoffmann-La Roche, the multinational drugs company, has come to Britain to seek citizenship while he pursues legal actions against the Swiss Government and the company.

Mr Adams, aged 53, a Maltese citizen, faced imprisonment for an £8,000 fine and a five-year ban from Switzerland for his disclosures. He said yesterday in London that he hoped to remain in Britain.

The socialist group of the European Parliament has raised 50,000 Swiss francs to back Mr Adams' action against the Swiss Government.

If necessary, he would take his case to the European Commission of Human Rights, Strasbourg, he said.

He also intends bringing an action against the EEC and against Dr Willy Schieler, a lawyer who was director general of the EEC Competitions Division (in charge of fair trading) at the time Mr Adams made his disclosures.

Mr Adams claims that he has evidence that Dr Schieler, either intentionally or by mistake, disclosed his identity as the source of the information to one of the drug company's lawyers. EEC officials and Dr Schieler deny that.

He was a senior executive of the drug company and was charged under Switzerland's industrial espionage laws and held in 1974 for nearly three months while awaiting release.



Mr Stanley Adams: Case backed by European MPs.

on bail. During that time his wife committed suicide.

After Mr Adams, a former British honorary consul who had a British passport until Malta became independent, disclosed price-fixing agreements instigated by Hoffmann-La Roche, the company was fined £250,000 by the EEC for breaching competition laws. The fine was reduced on appeal.

In his case against the Swiss Government, which he said was the most important, he seeks

his rehabilitation: he wants the Swiss to acknowledge they were wrong to bring the case.

The planned case against the EEC and Dr Schieler, in which he seeks compensation, will be started in Brussels and if necessary go to the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg.

The case against the drug company may be pursued through British courts.

The Stanley Adams appeal committee, which includes Sir John Foster, QC, and Mr Peter Archer, QC, a former Solicitor General, has raised £10,000 to help Mr Adams and will be pressing the Home Office through MPs to grant him the right to stay.

Mr Michael Ivens, director of Aims, the free enterprise organization and a member of the committee, said yesterday: "Britain has a strong tradition of accepting people who are dissidents or victims of political injustice. Stanley Adams' case is tailor-made for that."

Mr Adams arrived in Britain two days ago from Italy, where he had been pig farming.

His three young daughters are at a boarding school near Liverpool, as a result of a private donation offered because of publicly about his case.

He said yesterday that he did not regret the disclosures. "I do not wish to sound bombastic, but I did it for my benefit. I did it out of a sense of duty. I would do the same now. If I saw something going on that was wrong, I would report it today, tomorrow or any day."

Drug addicts may lose a third of NHS beds

By a Staff Reporter

Closure of a drug dependency unit at Bexley Hospital in Kent threatens to deprive the National Health Service of nearly one third of its 63 specialist drug addiction beds when the number of addicts is rising, doctors and staff at the unit said yesterday.

The closure, due on March 1 but still subject to consultation, is aimed at saving £150,000 a year from the budget of Greenwich and Bexley Area Health Authority which is heading for a £500,000 deficit this year.

Dr Judith Morgan, consultant psychiatrist at the 20-bed unit, said it provides services for patients in south-east England and sometimes from elsewhere.

"Closure will mean real suffering for our patients and unnecessary deaths are probable if not certain," she said. "Addicts' families and the community would also suffer."

"The 182 patients whom we treated last year will not disappear. Both prison and general psychiatric and medical services will struggle to cope with their demands at a time when they are already under severe pressure."

Home Office statistics indicated an alarming rise in the number of addicts, reaching more than 5,000 last year, and the actual number of addicts was thought to be appreciably higher.

The proposal at present is for temporary closure; this would be likely to be at least a year, and the staff fear it would become permanent.

NCCL lawyer's reputation harmed, court told

By a Staff Reporter

The reputation of Miss Harriet Harman, legal officer of the National Council for Civil Liberties, has been damaged by the successful Home Office action against her for contempt of court, the Court of Appeal was told yesterday.

Mr Leonie Price, QC, told Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls, sitting with Lord Justice Templeman and Lord Justice Dunn, that although her bona fides had not been questioned her reputation as a solicitor was damaged and she had had to bear substantial costs.

He was opening an appeal against a judgment, given in November by Mr Justice Park, that Miss Harman committed a serious contempt by showing a journalist documents obtained by the legal process of discovery and read out in open court.

The Home Office maintains that the documents, which were released to Miss Harman in her capacity as solicitor for a prisoner who was suing the Home Office, should not have been

used for any purpose other than the action. The documents formed the basis of a newspaper article criticizing Home Office prison policy.

Mr Price said yesterday that the confidentiality attaching to such documents ended once they were read out in court.

Whether it was contempt or not, he said, it was better that the journalists should have an accurate view of the documents rather than "write an article critical or praising the mandating and views of the Home Office" on the basis of imperfect knowledge of the document.

It made no difference, as Mr Justice Park had maintained, that the journalist needed to see documents for the purpose of a law report, a newspaper report or, as in this case, a feature article, he said.

Lord Denning remarked that it was everyday practice for shorthand writers to be shown documents or letters in order to check their notes.

Mr Price said that was the case not only with shorthand



Miss Harman: 'bona fides not questioned'.

writers but also with journalists.

New definition urged:

The appeal hearing coincides with the publication today of an NCCL booklet, *Changing Contempt of Court*, calling for a new definition of contempt.

The booklet, by Mr Andrew Nicol, a barrister, and Miss Heather Rogers, a law student, proposed a less strict definition of contempt than that contained in the Contempt Bill now in committee stage in the House of Lords.

The Bill defines contempt as creating a risk that the course of justice will be seriously impeded or prejudiced. The booklet, however, recommends that the word "serious" be inserted before risk.

It also urges a new defence of publication in the public interests.

The booklet proposes that confidentiality of court documents should end once they are read out in open court. It also urges that cases pending appeal should not be a sub judice and that there should be a general defence for fair, accurate and contemporaneous reports, whether or not they are in good faith.

Changing Contempt of Court, NCCL, 136 King's Cross Road, London, WC1. £1.20.

More rare birds of prey being poisoned

By David Nicholson-Lord

Action to protect rare birds of prey from bait laced with strychnine and other lethal pesticides is vital as the poisoning season begins on farms and game reserves, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds said yesterday.

An editorial in the society's magazine, *Birds*, due to be published at the end of next month, says the death rates from illegal poisoning is alarming and strongly criticized the Government's failure to include any of the society's proposals

in the Wildlife and Countryside Bill, now before Parliament.

Last year was the worst on record, with more than 100 confirmed cases, it says, including two golden eagles and two red kites, of which there are only 29 nesting pairs in Britain. Yet there were few prosecutions and none on the initiative of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

"Expressions of concern are not enough," the editorial says. "It is action, not words, we now demand."

The danger to humans and

pests was also pointed out last year in the society's report, *Silent Death*. That recommended a ban on the sale of one pesticide, mevinphos, greater restrictions on the availability of strychnine and a change in the law to make landowners jointly responsible if their employees misuse poisons.

Such an amendment was introduced by Lord Beaumont of Whitley at the Lords' committee stage of the Bill on Monday and the society hopes that it may be adopted.

Inquiry urged on atom store tests

Somerset county councillors called yesterday, at a meeting in Taunton, for an inquiry into proposals for test drilling into possible sites for storing radioactive waste in the county.

Two applications had been made on the Natural Environment Research Council's behalf to drill on Crown land near Puriton and at Brent Knoll.

The councillors decided to ask the Department of the Environment for an inquiry

BBC to fund Ulster Orchestra

By Kenneth Gosling Arts Reporter

After months of negotiations, agreement has been reached for the disbandment of the BBC Northern Ireland Orchestra, which was first proposed in the BBC's economy measures announced last year, and the enlargement of the Ulster Orchestra with firm financial guarantees for the next five years and for continued BBC support for at least a further five.

The agreement, involving the Arts Council of Northern Ireland, the Musicians' Union and the Northern Ireland Musicians' Association, provides for 12 of remaining members of the BBC Orchestra to move to an Ulster Orchestra enlarged to 55 players, and resettlement grants for five other players.

Belfast City Council is to contribute £150,000 over five years, and Gallaher's, the tobacco company, will contribute about £250,000 over four years.

The BBC will provide £190,000 in the first year, beginning in March, and will continue with funding support until 1986; the amounts will increase as costs rise.

A Musicians' Union official said the BBC was buying a broadcasting entitlement for a third of the orchestra's performances, the other two thirds being devoted to concert work. The sum guaranteed would be related to freelance fees; if those rose by 10 per cent then the £190,000 would go up accordingly next year.

Draft contracts have also been completed in relation to the three radio orchestras, the Northern, Scottish and Midland, and they will go before the union executive on February 12.

Man cleared of ill-treating stepson in pool

Sir James Greenwood, a bus driver, was cleared of ill-treating his stepson, aged two, by deliberately ducking him under the water in a swimming pool.

The jury found Mr Greenwood, aged 28, of Town Street, Stanbury, Leeds, not guilty of wilfully ill-treating or exposing Terence Benjamin Ryan in a manner likely to cause him unnecessary suffering or injury to health.

Mr Greenwood, in evidence, denied having intended to harm the boy or having forced him under the water. He said: "I was trying to get him used to the water and to teach him to swim. I loved the boy like my own son."

Damages for Mr Woodrow Wyatt over Tote article

Mr Woodrow Wyatt, chairman of the Totalisator, is to receive "suitable" libel damages over an unfounded newspaper allegation that he personally ordered the lowering of Tote dividends at Royal Ascot in 1976, the High Court was told yesterday.

Mr Richard Rampton, his counsel, said that Mirror Group Newspapers Ltd, publishers of *Sporting Life*, had also agreed to pay Mr Wyatt's costs and apologize publicly for a grave injustice.

Counsel told Mr Justice Park that on February 8, 1980, *Sporting Life*'s front page was dominated by an article bearing the banner headline: "Wyatt ordered Royal Ascot dividends to be altered".

The burden of the article was that Mr Wyatt, chairman of the

In brief

Vickers murder case on March 16

Committal proceedings involving Paul Vickers, aged 46, a surgeon, and Pamela Collison, aged 33, a political researcher, have been set for March 16, magistrates at Newcastle upon Tyne were told yesterday by an official of the Director of Public Prosecutions.

Mr Vickers, of Moor Crescent, Gosforth, Newcastle, and Miss Collison, of Margaret Road, Earnet, Hertfordshire, are jointly charged with the murder of Mr Vickers's wife in June, 1979. They also face three joint charges of obtaining quantities of a drug by deception.

Council opens family finding shop

A shop run by Greenwich Council, containing displayed information about children for in Hare Street, Woolwich, south-east London, yesterday. The council hopes its direct approach will help to find homes for some of the 600 children placed in its care.

Village shop success

Parish councillors who opened a shop at Tivetshall, Norfolk, a year ago said yesterday that the experiment was a big success, with a weekly turnover exceeding £500. Volunteers run the shop, which saves a 14-mile journey.

Bear owner's denial

Andrew Robbin, aged 37, owner of Hercules, the bear that went missing in the Hebrides last year, denied at Lochmaddy Sheriff Court, North Uist, yesterday, a charge of keeping the animal without a local authority licence. "The trial will be on July 14."

NUJ monopoly fear

The Taunton and West Somerset branch of the National Union of Journalists has asked for Associated Newspapers' proposed takeover of the Bristol Evening Post to be referred to the monopolies commission.

Searchers save a life

A man, aged 75, who leapt into the river from Trent Bridge, Nottingham, yesterday was rescued by police searching for the body of another man who jumped at the same spot on Tuesday.

Cost of vandalism

Vandals cost Rotherham ratepayers £47,378 over an eight-month period last year. The education department's damage bill was £13,350.

Church bells charge

Two men are to appear in court in connection with the theft of two fourteenth-century church bells from a village near Cockermouth, Cumbria.

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WEST EUROPE

French foreign policy to concentrate on East-West stabilization instead of détente

M Giscard warns Poland against upsetting Soviet apple cart

From Charles Hargrove
Paris, Jan 28

Détente is dead, long live stability, is how one might be inclined to sum up President Giscard d'Estaing's hour-long excursion on television last night into foreign affairs in an interview with three journalists.

Although the world is taboo at the Elysée Palace, it was in fact an electoral exercise, the last by the President in office before he becomes a candidate for the presidency—at the latest possible moment, as he has always made clear.

One of the journalists who interviewed him strayed from foreign affairs and broached the question which, more than world peace and East-West relations, Afghanistan, Poland, Chad and European co-operation was on the mind of every Frenchman glued to the television screen. When would he

actually throw down the gauntlet?

The answer was Sybiline: between 20 and 30 days before the first ballot would be sufficient to "respect the right of Frenchmen to be informed and their right to reflect," to quote his own words. That means that he will announce his decision to stand at the beginning of March, the first ballot being on April 26.

Are seven weeks, one commentator asked, enough to enable Frenchmen to commit themselves for another seven years?

It was a somewhat sombre view which the President cast on the world last night. He was anxious to respond to the criticism in the press, political circles, and even in parts of the public opinion, that his foreign policy had in the past 12 months been based on far too

optimistic an assessment of the prospects for peace and for negotiation.

The promise implicit in his decision to go to Warsaw to meet President Brezhnev that the Russians would gradually withdraw from Afghanistan was not fulfilled. He admitted that there had been "a shift of the positions of influence in the world to the advantage of the Soviet Union". That was why some people said that this détente was a fraud. He would not go that far. "The world we should have in mind is the stabilization of East-West relations," he emphasized.

But this "stabilization" must go hand in hand with "restraint" on both sides. France had shown restraint over Afghanistan. It would continue to show restraint over Poland, which must be encouraged to put its economic house in order,

without foreign intervention, but not to upset the Soviet apple cart by attempting to cast asidit from socialism.

Poland had to be conscious of the limitations of its "geographical and strategic situation" as part of the Soviet glacis in the West.

France would also show restraint over China. "It would not be a good thing for us to use China as an argument against the Soviet Union," he added.

In return, Russia must show restraint in Africa and elsewhere, just as it had done—though it was less obvious in Afghanistan as a result of the Warsaw meeting.

He had invited Mr Brezhnev only the previous day to demonstrate this restraint again by accepting a conference on non-intervention in Afghanistan,

which was another illustration of the dynamic quality of French diplomacy.

Those who argued that France should have intervened in Chad to prevent the Libyan takeover were accused of "irresponsible adventurism". France would have been condemned by everyone, and lost dozens, if not hundreds of men in such an expedition. It was up to the Africans and the Chadians themselves to put "enough pressure on the Libyans to withdraw."

Our Diplomatic Correspondent writes: British ministers have given a distinctly cautious response to President Giscard d'Estaing's proposal for an international conference on Afghanistan. The first reaction in Whitehall was that the French initiative might be partly aimed at a domestic audience, given the coming

presidential election campaign. Mr Douglas Hurd, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, said that the Government would look carefully "at this procedural suggestion", but made it quite clear that Britain saw the appointment of a special United Nations representative as holding out the best hope of achieving a political solution.

Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, paying a special tribute to Pakistan's efforts to get talks started under the aegis of the United Nations, said that Britain was increasing its aid to help Afghan refugees in Pakistan.

Commenting on the Pakistan initiative, he welcomed any negotiations which held out a prospect of restoring to Afghanistan its political independence, non-aligned character and right to determine its own form of government.

Air controllers' action hits Suárez party

From Richard Wigg
Madrid, Jan 28

An indefinite "work to rule" by air traffic controllers has obliged Spain's ruling Centre Democratic Union to postpone its party conference due to have opened in Palma, Majorca, tomorrow.

The air traffic controllers' action which began yesterday, coincides with temporary stoppages by railwaymen. Both are intended to force the Government to agree to wage increases.

Señor Adolfo Suárez, the Prime Minister, who is also president of the ruling party, faced at the conference criticisms from other leading party figures of his way of governing. There is a lingering suspicion in political circles today that the party apparatus preferred to postpone the conference without setting any new date in order to disrupt the plans of Señor Suárez's party critics.

The Government did not choose to invoke legislation still on the Statute Book enabling it to declare services as essential which would prohibit any disruptive action, presumably to avoid accusations of favouring the ruling party's interests.

Señor José Luis Alvarez, the Minister of Transport, faces criticism for having allowed the wage negotiations with the air traffic controllers to drag on. A final decision could be set by his officials for last Monday, only hours before some 2,000 party delegates were to fly to Majorca. Señor Alvarez said today that the authorities would not negotiate under duress.

The air traffic controllers' "work to rule" which also affects incoming international flights though to a lesser degree, began without any prior notification after the talks had broken down. It continued today with little prospect, apparently, of the negotiations resuming soon.

At Barajas airport, Madrid, domestic flights will leave today every 20 minutes instead of every three minutes at peak hours. There were delays of between five and six hours and many flights were cancelled.

On the railways, an estimated 800,000 passengers were held up from 8 am to 10 am today with virtually no trains running. Another two-hour stoppage was called for tonight with the same pattern planned for tomorrow. Talks are being held, however, between the State railways and the railwaymen to end the wage dispute.

The Government has rejected the air traffic controllers' wage demands, on the ground that they are more than three times the 12 per cent increase set for employees in the public sector under this year's budget. The air traffic controllers maintain that their pay has steadily declined since 1977.

The secretary of the Centre Democratic Union said that the decision to postpone the conference was unanimous, with the so-called "critical sector" representing the Christian Democratic and Liberal wings of the party, agreeing not to bow to trade union blackmail.

Señor Suárez's critics within the party are concentrating their attack on the lack of industrial discipline, and on an alleged inability of the Suárez administration to be seen to be governing.

The Majorca hotel industry is in a bit of a lull as the conference will have been in session on the island at low season. The hotel where Señor Suárez was to have stayed has just been acquired by Arab interests.

Palma was chosen because the European security conference has occupied semi-permanently Madrid's Palace of Congresses.

It is uncertain when the conference will be held. Next month will be busy in the Cortes, with important legislation including a controversial Bill on divorce. Pilted by the Minister of Justice, a Social Democrat who supports the Prime Minister, the RIV divides Señor Suárez's Christian Democrat and Liberal critics and the party's left wing of opposing the party conference.

But against this has to be set the general impact of industrial stoppages as the Government disapproved and this to show it has sufficient authority left to continue until the 1983 general election.

Schmidt policy critic keeps up leftist challenge

From Our Own Correspondent
Bonn, Jan 28

One of Herr Helmut Schmidt's most unruly left-wing MPs today defied his parliamentary party and announced that he would go on attacking the Chancellor's policies.

Herr Karl-Heinz Hansen alleged at a press conference that some of the Government's policies and in particular plans to export arms to non-Nato countries, went against the Social Democratic Party's principles. He claimed that most of the party felt as he did.

Herr Hansen was censured by the SPD parliamentary party last night for a strongly-worded attack on the Chancellor in the left-wing magazine *Konkret*. Among other things, he had called Herr Schmidt's foreign policy "a series of blunders" and "Schulmeisterliche" (schoolmasterly) tricks. He now faces possible expulsion from the party.

He was supported by two other SPD deputies, Herr Manfred Coppel and Herr Klaus Thüsing, with whom he formed the hard core of left-wing rebels.

His attack came on the heels of an unsuccessful move by 26 SPD left-wingers against the

Chancellor's defence policy. They put forward a resolution in the party calling for DM1,000m (£210m) to be cut from the defence budget.

All 24 had originally intended to be present at the press conference but after the move against Herr Hansen the other 21 changed their minds.

The left-wingers are particularly unhappy about a Government agreement to sell two submarines to Chile and numerous Leopard tanks and highly sophisticated weapons to Saudi Arabia. They are also upset over reports that the Government is considering dropping its self-imposed ban on arms exports to areas of international tension.

There is also growing resentment over the joint decision with Nato to deploy new medium-range nuclear missiles in Western Europe. They feel their consent was given on too understanding that the United States would ratify the Salt Two arms limitation treaty, which it has not done.

Numerically they could leave the Government in a minority if they chose to vote against it on defence issues but it is not yet clear whether "all would be determined enough to do so."

West German welcome for EEC fishing deal

From Patricia Clough
Bonn, Jan 28

West German fishermen welcomed with relief today's agreement in Brussels allowing them to fish again off Norway and Greenland.

A spokesman said they would not go ahead with plans to blockade the ports of Hamburg and Bremen and seal off the Danish border unless the final negotiations on a Community fisheries agreement (on February 9 and 10) failed or unless there were incidents involving their ships at sea.

"We do not want to do anything which would compromise the negotiations," Herr Rudi Roder, a representative of Cuxhaven fishermen, said.

The agreement means that many of the 1,200 German fishermen, who have been kicking their heels on shore for several weeks while the Community sought a fishing agreement, can now put to sea.

Two-thirds of West Germany's traditional fishing grounds lie off Norway, Greenland and Canada and 19 factory ships have been laid up. Herr Roder said the "lethargy of the politicians" in Brussels was costing the industry DM300,000 (about £50,000) a day.

Resentment has been running high as the end of the current season in mid-February approaches and the threat of bankruptcies and unemployment looms. On Sunday fishermen occupied a lock at the entrance of Cuxhaven harbour and prevented an Icelandic ship from entering. Others held a demonstration in Bonn.

Herr Josef Ertl, the Agricultural Minister, yesterday demanded a quick agreement in Brussels and threatened that West Germany might withhold contributions to the Community.

Herr Helmut Schmidt, the Chancellor, sent a telegram to

President Giscard d'Estaing of France pointing out that the situation had become critical for the industry here.

Brussels agreement: The EEC agreement allows West German fishermen to catch 3,000 tonnes of cod off the coast of Greenland until February 10 to compensate them for loss of access to Canadian waters (Michael Hornsby writes from Brussels).

An agreement between the EEC and Canada on reciprocal fishing rights is being blocked by Britain until a new Community fisheries policy has been agreed, including the share-out of fishing within the EEC's own waters.

Britain, however, agreed that a fishing agreement with Norway should go into force, at least until the end of March. British fishermen stand to gain from access to Norwegian waters, whereas they do not fish off Canada.

The stalemate over a fisheries policy has been dragging on for five years.

French hand-out: The French Government has decided to dig deep into its pocket this year to give a hand-out to the fishing industry. Aid totalling 300m francs (£30m) was agreed by today's Cabinet meeting (Ian Murray writes from Paris).

This shows just how seriously the Government views the crisis facing the industry and how sensitive it was to the causes of last summer's dispute which led to fishermen blockading French ports.

Greenland anger: Greenland may hold an early referendum on its EEC membership in protest at the fishing agreements. The threat follows Denmark's temporary suspension yesterday because of its opposition to West German trawlers fishing cod in Greenland waters.

Greenland voted by referendum in 1972 to join the EEC and planned to hold a second referendum on its membership early next year. (UPI reports from Copenhagen).



Signor Adolfo Sarti, Italy's Justice Minister, in high spirits after rebuffing opposition demands for his resignation over his handling of prison visits by Radical Party MPs.

Italian leader's views on terrorism anger Russia

From John Earle
Rome, Jan 28

The Italian Government is embarrassed by an incident affecting its relations with the Soviet Union arising from remarks by President Pertini on the international links of Italian terrorism. The President's comments have brought a sharp protest from Moscow.

To give time for the temperature to cool the government has postponed a statement in Parliament on the subject from yesterday until next Tuesday.

When President Giscard d'Estaing of France visited Rome last week, President Pertini in interviews with French television and *Le Figaro* reiterated his belief that Italian terrorists received help from abroad, and mentioned Turkey and Italy as two countries subjected to attempts to disrupt their stability. He apparently spoke from personal conviction, and cited no evidence. The context of his remarks implied that he was thinking of the Soviet Union.

Signs are that the deterioration of relations between Rome and Moscow will be only temporary. Mr Timofey Guzhenko, the Soviet Minister of Merchant Marine, is in Italy to discuss possible orders for Italian shipyards under the new Soviet five-year plan, and until now at least, his programme is going ahead as scheduled.

Roulette wheels checked by fraud experts

San Remo, Jan 28.—Experts in roulette wheel rigging took over San Remo's Casino today to investigate an alleged swindle by croppers and regular customers that is said to have robbed the casino of millions of pounds.

The experts were from a Paris company that for years has supplied equipment to casinos all over the world, investigating officials said.

Their task was to examine the roulette wheels to see if they had been tampered with in a way that could enable the croppers to determine the slot the little white balls dropped into.

At dawn yesterday hundreds of police and finance agents went to homes in San Remo and arrested 18 croppers and 30 of the casino's regular customers.

The investigators claimed that croppers and some supervisory staff saw off the selected regular customers made large winnings and then shared the proceeds. Experts estimated the loss to the casino at between £4.1 and £8.2m.—UPI.

Commuters let Metro killer flee

From Our Own Correspondent
Paris, Jan 28

Paris commuters at the busy Gare d'Est stood by and allowed a pickpocket to escape after he had fatally cut the wrist of a victim.

The victim grabbed the thief's wrist and at the next station dragged him off, saying he was taking him to the police station. The thief then pulled a knife from his pocket and stabbed his captor in the throat.

It took an hour and the platform was crowded, but everyone then stood back and let the murderer board the train. Nobody on the train did anything until a young student from Zeire raised the alarm 20 stations further down the line. Later a 53-year-old man, believed to be from North Africa was arrested by railway police.

Picking pockets on the Metro has become so regular an occurrence despite increased patrols, that the police admit that there is almost no way of stopping it other than by citizen's arrest. As most thieves work in gangs, with one member passing a stolen wallet to another, such arrests are difficult.

Six young people were arrested at Argenteuil yesterday morning after they threatened and robbed passengers using knives and knuckledusters. They were travelling on the train from Paris to Arranches.

Michaelangelo pastel verified

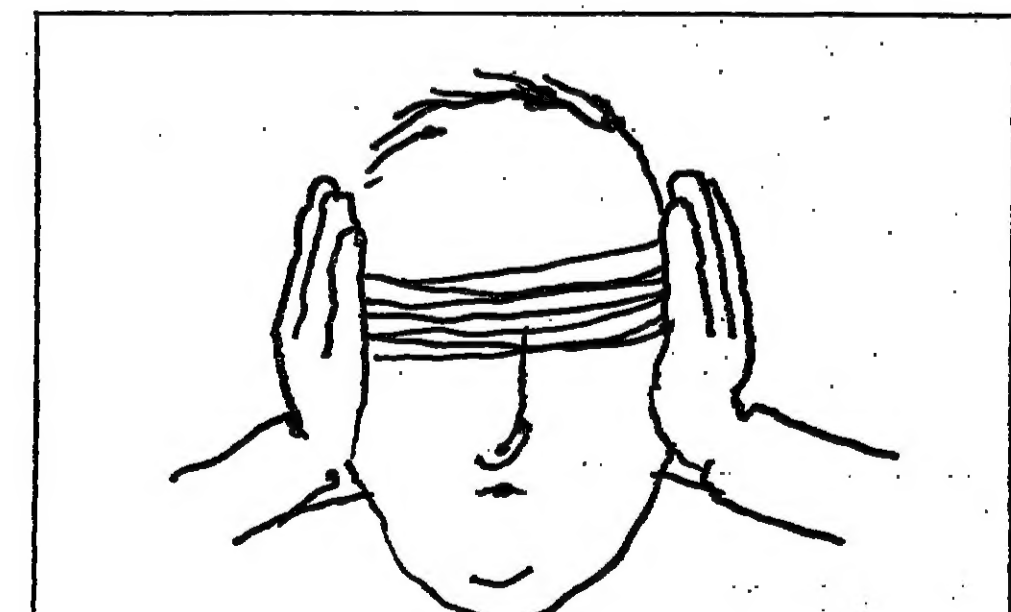
Geneva, Jan 28.—A large pastel drawing in the Bodmer Foundation collection here has been pronounced by two British experts to be the work of Michelangelo. The drawing, 18 in by 14 in, depicting Christ and the Woman of Samara, is thought to date from 1543, and to have been a presentation to a friend, Vittoria Colonna.

It was purchased early in the 1950s by the founder of the collection. The experts, Mr Noel Anson, of Christie's, and Mr Michael Hirst, of the Courtauld Institute, have confirmed its authenticity.

Press trip visas refused

Helsinki, Jan 28.—Soviet authorities have refused visas to Western members of Helsinki's International Press Association (IPA), whom they had invited to visit the mining and industrial complex in Kostamus, 20 miles east of Finland's border. The Russian embassy could not explain.

Mr Thomas Romantschuk, chairman of the IPA, said he did not know the reason. "We joked that the trip will be stopped because one of the participants is a Chinese journalist, but that was not the real reason. Only the Soviets know that."



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Central Athens blanketed by thick snow

From Our Own Correspondent
Athens, Jan 28

Central Athens lay under a thick blanket of snow today which disrupted traffic and caused all schools to close for 48 hours as the weather report promised more snowfalls and temperatures below freezing for the next two days.

Greece has been in the grip of an unusually long cold spell which has crippled communications, damaged crops, and killed thousands of cattle.

Athens was cut off from the north of the country today but snowploughs were trying to clear the main highway and the railway north of here. Because of gales sailings from Piraeus were cancelled and Olympic Airways grounded its domestic flights because of snow on the runways and poor visibility.

Bonn's envoy criticizes its attitude to E Germany

From Gretel Spitzer
Berlin, Jan 28

Herr Günter Gaus, the West German envoy to East Germany for the past six and a half years, today paid a farewell call on Herr Oskar Fischer, the East German Foreign Minister. Tomorrow, he will see Herr Erich Honecker, the East German Communist Party leader.

Herr Gaus enjoyed a high reputation in East Germany. This was underlined by the permission granted to West German television to film Herr Gaus flanking on his right by Herr Honecker, and by Mr Pyotr Abramov, the Soviet Ambassador, on his left, at the table of a Government lodge during a recent diplomatic hunt.

In reviewing his long term

of duty Herr Gaus criticized West Germany's approach to East Germany. On television he said that West Germany and its media tended to "ignore the existence of a German state on the other side of the eastern border, seeing instead, wrongly in his opinion, only the ruling Communist Party, and an enslaved mass of people, living under this regime."

There was no affection for the East Germans, he said. By its lack of awareness of what East Germany was really like, West Germany was making it difficult for itself to exploit reasonable possibilities. "The problem with East Germany starts with us," Herr Gaus said.

Last week, Herr Gaus was elected a West Berlin senator in charge of science and research.

Vision of computer-enslaved world

From Ian Murray
Paris, Jan 28

A terrifying prospect of a world ruled or enslaved by the magnetic bands has been conjured up in Monte Carlo during the first international symposium devoted to computer security.

Delegates to "Top Secret 81" heard from Mr Don P. Parker, the American who has far succeeded in classifying 800 types of computer programs. He gave warning that within 10 years the real threat to world stability would not be nuclear power but the ability of one nation to enslave another by paralyzing its computers.

Although to date the usual computer crime was committed by the white-collar expert who worked on them and then went home to his family. In years to come political crime, terrorism, and even war would be waged on and through the machines, he claimed.

One example of the type of blackmail that could be achieved came from West Ger-

many, where an operator had succeeded in stealing 22 magnetic bands essential for the operation of a large chemical group. The board hesitated only briefly before handing over \$200,000 ransom to recover the bands, without which the company could not operate.

Many banks are even more vulnerable than the chemical group. So much of their records are on tape in their computer centres that it is doubtful whether they could continue in business if these were destroyed. Were a big bank to be affected in this way there would be inevitable and serious repercussions on the economy of the country where it was based.

Hostile nations could make use of technology to disturb the computers of their neighbours, ruining weather reporting or stock market dealings.

Crime by computer is already known to be extremely difficult to detect. Of the 633 discovered in 1979, 472 were in the United States, 35 in Sweden,

23 in Britain, 21 in West Germany, nine in France and eight in Japan. In Europe alone the present cost of these frauds is estimated at 15,000m francs (£1,360m) a year.

According to the Stanford Research Institute of America, the average holdup of a computer brings the white-collar criminal a profit of \$500,000 compared with only \$10,000 for the traditional armed holdup.

The Geneva-based International Association for the Study of Assurance has calculated that computer error will cost companies worldwide at least \$5,000m a year by 1988, plus a further \$700m in fraud.

The conference heard stories of successful computer criminals, like the programmer at an American bank who was caught out after having transferred \$20m to fictitious accounts. He was dismissed but to avoid a scandal no charges were brought. He was rapidly reemployed when the bank realized the havoc he could cause if he went to work for another firm.

COUNTRY LIFE
FINE ARTS NUMBER

Fine Arts Number

INTER-WAR CHURCHES UNDER THREAT
Gavin Stamp criticises recent destructive and insensitive alterations to some of the churches that were built between the World Wars.

HAM HOUSE RE-INTERPRETED
In an article illustrated in colour, John Cornforth discusses aspects of the recent restoration of 17th-century decoration and furnishing at Ham House, Surrey.

JEWELLERED TRIBUTE TO THE PAST
Diana Scarisbrick describes the British Museum's Hull Grundy Gift, and illustrates in colour this 19th-century jewellery which was inspired by ancient, medieval and Renaissance sources.

AN ENERGETIC VICTORIAN
Francis Russell traces, through the diary of Lady Charlotte Guest, the formation of the picture collection at Canford Manor, Dorset in the mid 19th century.

REWARDS OF HIGH OFFICE
In the first of two articles, Judith Banister relates how, from the 16th century onwards, obsolete Seals of England were incorporated in silver cups and salvers.

COUNTRY LIFE
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OVERSEAS

Islamic initiative over Afghanistan effectively abandons insurgents fighting Soviet occupation troops

From Robert Fisk
Tall, Saudi Arabia, Jan 28

The Islamic nations meeting here have decided to launch their own peace initiative to try to solve the Afghan crisis. In doing so they have effectively abandoned the insurgents in Afghanistan who have been fighting the Soviet Army for the past 12 months.

This is not the way in which delegates to the Islamic summit would wish their decisions to be interpreted, but they have asked the United Nations to appoint a special representative to mediate between Afghanistan and its neighbours.

This step undermines the Afghan guerrillas' insistence that there should never be any negotiations with the Soviet-backed Government in Kabul, led by Mr Babrak Karmal.

Indeed, despite all the condemnation of the Saudis and other conservative Arab states, the resolution passed by the conference in Riyadh, calling for a political solution to Afghanistan, does not even make reference to a Soviet "invasion".

It refers merely to Russian "intervention" in Afghanistan and avoids any criticism of the Soviet Union. Pakistan was the first country to suggest such an approach and when Mr Agha Shahi, the Pakistani Foreign Minister, was asked today why the summit had not condemned the Soviet Union, he said: "When you move into negotiations with a party, it is inappropriate to make condemnations."

The summit resolution reflects the growing disenchant-

ment of the Saudis with the leading insurgent organizations who claim to be able to defeat the Russians in Afghanistan.

The resolution was also partly prompted by President Giscard d'Estaing's own initiative; a suggestion of an international conference on Afghanistan that startled many delegates here and prompted others to suspect that the French leader was trying to upstage the Islamic summit.

Dr Kurt Waldheim, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, is at present unhappy about the idea of appointing a special representative, although he will need to respond to the Islamic nations' resolution in a positive way.

As the summit neared its end tonight, it became apparent that a new boycott of all companies trading with Israel will be imposed by the Muslim countries attending the conference. Mr Habib Chatti, the conference secretary-general, confirmed today that a boycott office would be set up to list the names of all companies dealing with Israel.

The Arab League already operates a similar office in Damascus, but the new boycott will embrace a far larger number of nations than the 22-member league. In theory at least, 43 countries will now be involved in blacklisting any commercial firm that does business with Israel.

This is the cornerstone of the new economic struggle which the conference has endorsed to put further pressure upon Israel to hand back east Jerusa-

lem and the occupied West Bank to the Arabs.

Mr Yassir Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization, therefore has the satisfaction of knowing that not only the Arabs but other Muslim nations are prepared to take tactical steps to act against Israel.

He was less enamoured, however, of a short speech made to the conference this morning by President Sarkis of Lebanon. Mr Sarkis, whose small but anarchic nation had been virtually forgotten during the summit, angered Mr Arafat by suggesting, not without considerable justification, that PLO guerrillas had broken agreements by their activities in southern Lebanon.

Mr Sarkis said: "Can we continue to be observers in such a situation when it could destroy Lebanon itself, in addition to the fact that there is intimidation by the armed Palestinian presence in the south in violation of its commitments towards Lebanon?"

Mr Arafat scribbled on a notepad during this unexpected criticism, but did not attempt to reply.

If the summit is prepared to take initiatives over Afghanistan and the Palestinians, however, it has failed to bring any conclusion to the Iraq-Iran war.

President Hussein of Iraq addressed the summit today, but did not more than restate his willingness to call a ceasefire and withdraw from Iranian territory, but only if Iraq could hold undisputed and total sovereignty over the Shatt al-Arab waterway.

Leading article, page 15



Mr Lech Walesa, the Polish union leader, meeting activists of Rural Solidarity who have been occupying a building in Rzeszow since the beginning of the year.

Polish workers urged not to strike

Warsaw, Jan 28.—The executive of Poland's independent trade union movement Solidarity called on all its regional branches today to abstain from strike action until next Tuesday and announced that a one-hour national warning strike would be held on that day.

Solidarity's national coordinating commission, meeting in Gdansk, said that strikes being called by regional branches were making Poland's economic and social chaos worse and were weakening the union.

Next week's warning strike, the commission's statement said, would back Solidarity's demand for payment for work-

free Saturdays, free access to the media, and the right of private farmers to establish their unions. The strike will exempt hospitals and railways. If the strike does not have the desired effect, the commission will decide on February 18 what to do next. It called on the Government to use the time until then to negotiate settlements of all claims currently in dispute.

The national leadership also appealed to its branches to stop the present strikes which have hit hundreds of factories across the country "unless they are in response to reprisals taken by the authorities in a given area."

Mr Walesa reaffirmed today that he would remain in Rzeszow "until the problem of Rural Solidarity is solved."—Agence France-Presse and UPI. Food appeal: The Duke of Norfolk is leading an appeal for support for the Food for Poland Fund launched by Poles living in Britain. Food intended for the needy in Poland will be bought from donations sent to the Polish Catholic Centre, 1 Courtfield Gdns, London W.13, or to Lloyds Bank, Hagger Lane branch, 5 Ashbourne Parade, London W.5. (Food for Poland Fund, account No. 0005805).

World View

by Arrigo Levi

Changing policies to suit America's mood

America is a country of moods: not just in the sense that they tend to change spectacularly, but that at any particular moment the emerging mood usually sweeps the whole country.

America, thanks to television and to its being a continental nation-state, distant from its counterpart in the global power game, feels and behaves like a typical twentieth century "national village".

At present America is in one of its moods and the rest of the world had better take notice. European governments would not have announced so swiftly that they were normalising relations with Iran if they had been sufficiently aware of the strength of America's feelings about the hostages.

They would at least have allowed a decent delay of a few days before giving the impression that they had forgiven Iran for such a barbaric crime, which had forced America to reconsider its very place and mission in the world today.

An additional element defines the present mood of America as different from all other similar states in America's past. The hostages' episode, together with the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, has suddenly brought home the uncomfortable fact that there are in today's world precise and uncomfortably narrow limits to America's power to shape the world according to its ideals, interests and hopes.

This again may lead to alternative, even opposite policies: either to an attempt to reconquer the goodwill of the world by shaping America's foreign policy according to its great ideals of liberty and equality, or to an attempt to reassert American power through a jump in military expenditure and a "realistic" foreign policy, which supports anybody who is pro-American (and anti-Russian), whatever his moral and ideological values may be.

In the rest of the world the hostages had been long forgotten. Not so in America, thanks to the continuous presence on television of the hostages' families, which had become a recognized presence and political force in American life.

The fact that even America's best friends did not share or understand the intensity of its feelings tends to increase this country's dangerous feeling of being isolated and misunderstood, if not betrayed, even by those who owe America their very freedom.

Due to these circumstances, America is more than ever aware of the uniqueness of its

identity and condition in the world, as well as of its poignant national unity. It is of such stuff that isolationism is made, though on this same ground opposite policies may take root, of an interventionist nature.

As we know, Mr Carter tried the first policy for two or three years; then, in spite of the fact that he had obtained some results (for instance, in solving the Panama Canal issue, or in dramatically improving America's image in Africa) he ended by embracing, to a considerable extent, the second policy.

President Reagan, who was swept to power by the change in America's mood, will find half his work already done or started by the last acts of Mr Carter. He will have difficulty, as a result, in further increasing America's military expenditure. Nevertheless, he is under considerable pressure to prove that the change of mood is really going to produce a change of policies—and some results.

Unfortunately there is always a gap between moods and policies. When one considers many concrete problems, as they present themselves today to the new Administration, one does not find in Washington any clear indication of what the responses will be.

This applies for instance to such an issue as the Middle East: one can talk to representative figures of the Reagan Administration whose language would delight most Arab listeners, and to others who are the fiercest supporters of Israel.

The same uncertainty exists in security policy, where Mr Caspar Weinberger, Secretary of Defence, does not yet seem to be in control. It is not known what his priorities will be: servicemen's pay, or the strengthening of America's strategic deterrent? MX missiles, or a renegotiated agreement on ABMs? One does not even know how much he intends to spend, or not to spend, above Mr Carter's last budget, which was a formidable one.

On these and other problems, including the central one of if and when to try a new negotiating approach to the Soviet Union (at once, or only after America has, hopefully, become stronger?), there may have in the past been a certain degree of agreement before we know in which way America's present mood will translate itself into policies.

In the meantime, President Reagan's main preoccupation—world permitting—will be the American economy.

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Jamaica Premier welcomed to White House

From Our Own Correspondent
Washington Jan 28

President Reagan today sought to carry out his election pledge to improve relations between the United States and its closest neighbours by welcoming Mr Edward Seaga, the recently elected Jamaican Prime Minister, to the White House.

The visit is the first to Washington by a foreign head of government since Mr Reagan's inauguration a week ago. The only other foreign leaders to have met the new President since the November election are President José López Portillo of Mexico and Herr Helmut Schmidt, the West German Chancellor.

CIA chief confirmed

Washington, Jan 28.—The United States Senate has voted 95 to nil to confirm Mr William Casey, aged 67, as Director of the Central Intelligence Agency. Mr Casey was intelligence chief in Europe with the Office of Special Services during the Second World War.

Vietnam war soldier cleared of desertion

From Our Own Correspondent
New York, Jan 28

Three charges against Marine Private Robert Garwood, the only serviceman accused of treason in the Vietnam war, were dismissed by the judge at his court martial yesterday. The main charge of collaborating with the enemy stands, however, and the five-man jury

Mr Sharon defends plan to reward builders with land

From Moshe Brilliant
Tel Aviv, Jan 28

Mr Ariel Sharon, the Israeli Minister of Agriculture, confirmed in Jerusalem today that he proposed paying private contractors for building in the occupied Arab areas by granting them valuable land in Israel's cities.

Leaks about the plan had led to fierce criticism and Mr Sharon, speaking in the Knesset, asked: "What is wrong with it?"

"The country will benefit twice," he said. "Once when homes rise in Karnei Shomron, Gaillee, Ariel and Kedumia and again when the same contractors build homes in the heart of the country."

Mr Sharon said the proposal had been discussed with officials of the Finance Ministry but he acknowledged that it had not been proposed to the Cabinet of the Council of the Israel Land Authority, the first steps needed to put the plan into operation.

He said he had conferred with contractors, explaining that the state could not finance

the housing needed due to budgetary problems.

Contractors interviewed in the media were dubious about the plan. One said: "It's a wedding on the moon." Mr Teddy Kolek, Mayor of Jerusalem, said that if public land in the city were sold, he would want the proceeds to build schools. He warned contractors that he would do his best to deny city permits to build on land which the contractors obtained through a deal with Mr Sharon.

Mr Sharon, the main Cabinet proponent of speedy settlement in the occupied areas, was seen to be trying to start as much development as possible in the months before the coming general election, to present a future government with a fait accompli.

The Labour Party, which is expected to win the election to be held probably in June, proposes offering much of the West Bank and Gaza to Jordan in a peace treaty and favours confining Jewish settlement to areas that Israel must keep for its security.

Ayatollah denies party rift over hostages

From Tony Allaway
Tehran, Jan 28

One of Iran's most powerful clergy members today denied reports that prominent members of the dominant Islamic Republican Party (IRP) had resigned over the hostages deal.

"No, this is only rumour," Ayatollah Muhammad Beheshti, head of the Supreme Court and the leader of the IRP, said.

He acknowledged that there had been differences within the party over the freeing of the hostages. "No party can have (one) idea on every subject, but when the majority of the party have an idea the minority will follow."

But he told a press conference that remarks by another prominent IRP clergyman two days ago of resignations over the hostages had no relation to the party itself. Ayatollah Beheshti said the Government had done its best in the negotiations.

Iran assurance: Mr Terence Waite, the Archbishop of Canterbury's special envoy to Iran, was told at the Iranian Embassy in London yesterday that the Government in Tehran wants the four detained Britons to be released as quickly as possible.

They are Miss Joan Waddell and Dr and Mr John Coleman, all missionaries, and Mr Andrew Pyke, a businessman.

After his discussion with Dr Seyfollah Eshdadi, the Iranian Chargé d'Affaires, Mr Waite said that on the strength of his assurances he would not request a visa to visit Iran.

Mr Haig rules out supply of arms to Tehran

From Patrick Brogan
Washington, Jan 28

Mr Alexander Haig, the Secretary of State, said today that no military equipment will be supplied to Iran, fulfilling neither previous orders nor new ones. Those arms that Iran had ordered and paid for before the American Embassy was seized in 1979 will probably be sold elsewhere and the proceeds repatriated to Iran.

Mr Haig was asked at a press conference whether any sanctions, such as a new trade embargo, would be invoked against Iran in retaliation for the mistreatment of the hostages. He replied that he would not speculate on the question and that "the period ahead is going to clearly demonstrate the nature and character of the Iranian regime's post-hostage-return attitudes."

There are additional American hostages in Iran, one with a clear citizenship connotation, and a host of other concurrent obligations which make that question premature.

He said that although the ban on trade with Iran has been lifted, Americans had been warned of the undesirability of travelling there. "Until further deliberations had been made with respect to future commercial arrangements, it is my view that the most careful caution should be applied by American firms."

He anticipated that the United States would "fulfill its obligations (to Iran) within the context of domestic law and international practice."

US plans to redress its 'inferior military position'

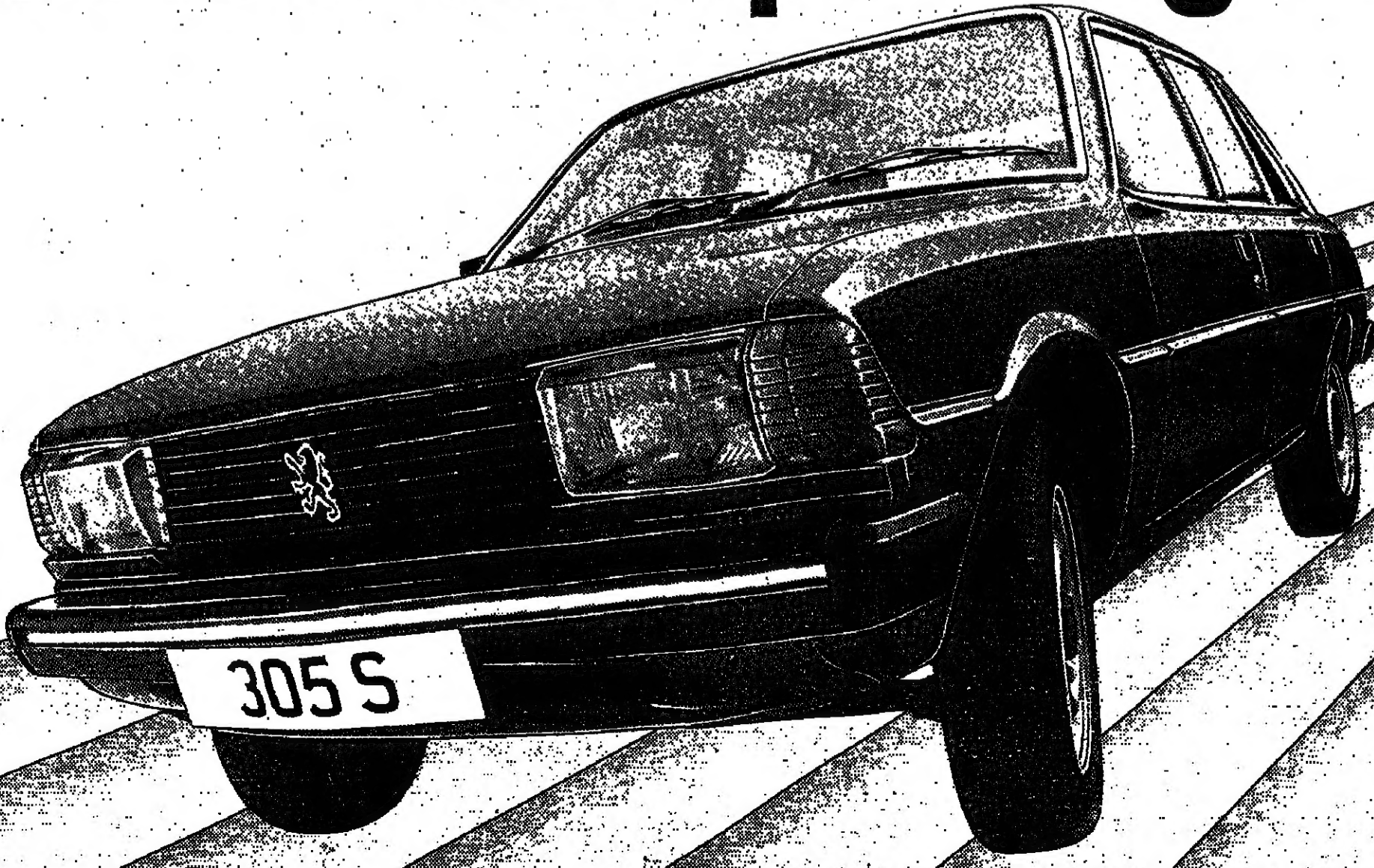
Washington, Jan 28.—Mr Caspar Weinberger, the new United States Defence Secretary today criticized military budget proposals made by former President Carter and said that the United States armed forces were in "a far less than satisfactory condition."

His criticism of the military spending plans announced by Mr Carter before leaving office last week coincided with a report by the United States Joint Chiefs of Staff that the military balance was shifting against the United States and its allies.

In testimony prepared for the Senate armed services committee, Mr Weinberger said that the Carter budgets for 1981 and 1982, calling for outlays of \$158,000m (£65,800m) and \$180,000m (£75,000m) reflected "a much more tranquil view of the international political scene than actually exists."

The Reagan Administration "will build enough, and I hope in time, to redress the inferior position we now occupy" compared to the Soviet armed forces. He did not disclose what budget increases he would propose next month.—Reuters.

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WEST EUROPE

French foreign policy pressure
M Giscard against
force build-up

From Charles Hargrove

Paris, Jan 28. Deterrence is dead, stability is how or inclined to sum thrust Giscard d'Estaing's Government might into force of building up the country's military machine at the expense of the welfare of the people.

Although the country's military machine at the expense of the welfare of the people, the Government has been criticised for its policy of building up the country's military machine at the expense of the welfare of the people.

Calling on the Government to create a nuclear-free zone in Asia and the Pacific, Mr Asakura told Mr Zenko Suzuki: "If you, Mr Prime Minister, say you will abide by the terms of our peace constitution, then you should stop building up your defence forces and take a clear stand that Japan is non-aligned and neutral."

The Government found itself under pressure on two sides today. In contrast to the growing

fears that the Government might be taking steps to rearm Japan and turn it into a military power, the United States expressed disappointment that Japan was not spending more on defence.

A senior American diplomat said today: "We were originally promised that Japan would increase defence spending by 9.7 per cent this year. The United States considered this to be inadequate if Japan is to take a greater responsibility for its own security. And now we find that the Government has reduced the increase to 7.6 per cent."

In essence, Japan will have to increase defence spending by 15 per cent a year over the next four years if it is to keep its promise to Washington and spend per cent of its gross national product on defence by 1984.

Denying assertions that a build-up of Japan's defence forces might alarm its smaller Asian neighbours, Mr Suzuki told Parliament that the United States had not influenced the Government's decision to increase spending on its military machine, euphemistically named the "Self-Defence Forces".

Vietnam gives terms
for troop withdrawal

Bangkok, Jan 28.—Vietnam said today that it was ready to withdraw some troops from Kampuchea under certain conditions and proposed a regional conference between the Indo-Chinese countries and the non-communist countries of South-East Asia.

The proposals were made in a statement at the end of a two-day meeting of the Vietnamese, Laotian and Kampuchean Foreign Ministers in Ho Chi Minh City, Hanoi radio reported.

The report said Vietnam was prepared to withdraw an unspecified number of troops from Kampuchea if Thailand stopped making territory available to the Khmer guerrillas,

and stopped supplying them with food and weapons. Thailand says it has a strictly neutral policy towards the conflict in Kampuchea and denies giving assistance to the guerrillas fighting the 200,000 Vietnamese occupation troops.

Zamot radio said the Indo-Chinese countries also offered a regional conference between themselves and the Association of South-east Asian Nations (Asean) consisting of Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.

The report added that a full withdrawal of Vietnamese troops would only be considered when the threat from China "no longer existed".

China announces
reduction in
military spending

Peking, Jan 28.—Amid fresh signs of economic retrenchment, China announced today that it will reduce military spending in 1981 to help balance its budget.

The New China news agency said the Military Commission had issued a directive ordering the People's Liberation Army to cut spending and make better use of funds already provided.

"The directive says all Army construction projects must be reduced to conform to financial and material limits, and all military expenses must be carefully calculated," the agency added.

The Military Commission is now under the direct control of Mr Deng Xiaoping, the effective head of the Government.

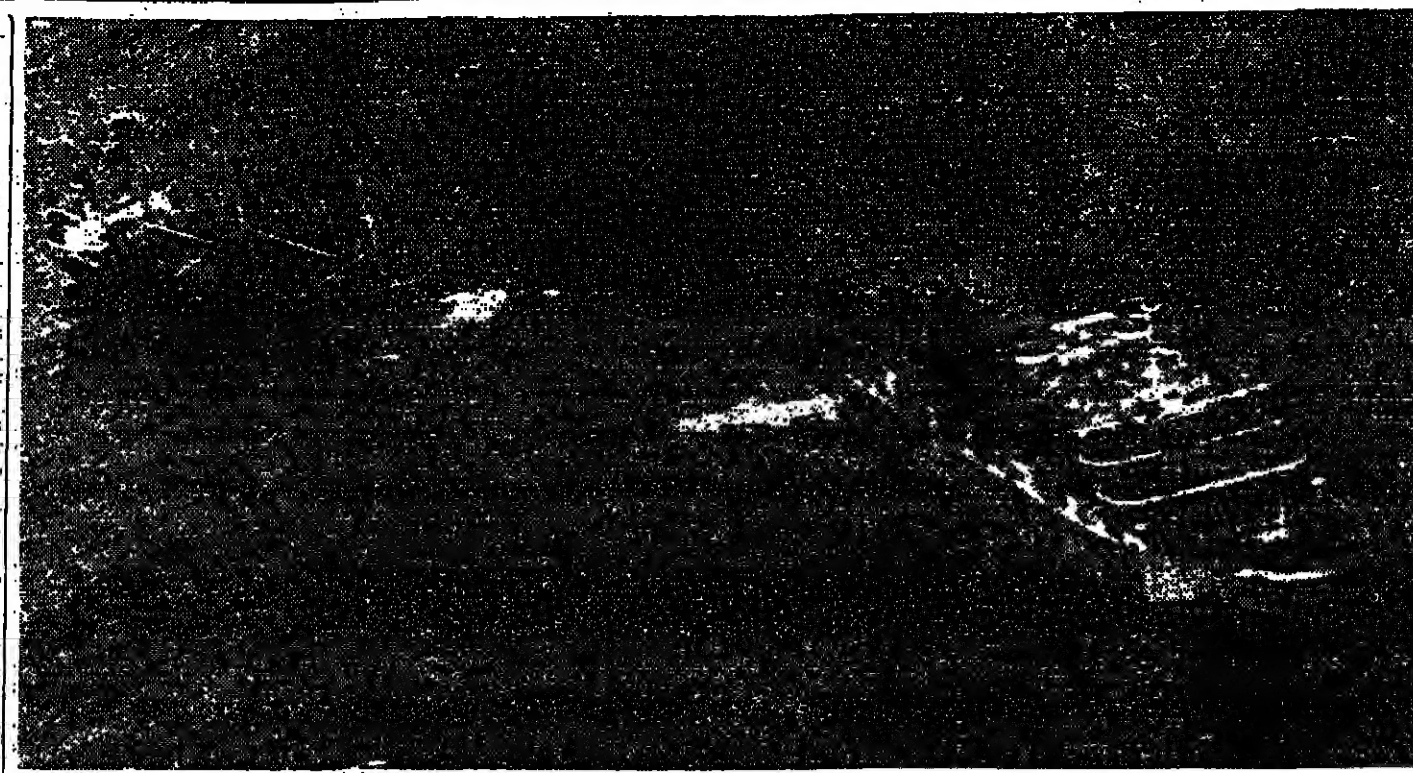
S Korea leader
leaves for
Reagan talks

From Jacqueline Rediff

Seoul, Jan 28. President Chun Doo Hwan of South Korea left Seoul today on a 10-day visit to the United States at the invitation of President Reagan.

Mr Chun will be the first head of state to meet President Reagan and the first South Korean one to visit the United States for 12 years.

He will have talks with President Reagan in Washington on February 2, and will meet Dr Kurt Waldheim, the United Nations Secretary-General in New York, and the National Press Club, attend a dinner given by Mr David Rockefeller, the president of the Chase Manhattan Bank and visit the United States Pacific Forces Command in Hawaii.



An aerial view of the Tampomas II ferry (right) taken a few hours before the ship sank in the Java Sea on Tuesday.

762 saved
in Java
ferry disaster

Jakarta, Jan 28.—A total of 374 people were listed as dead or missing today after a passenger ferry sank in the Java Sea yesterday, an Indonesian Government spokesman said.

The spokesman said 762 survivors had been picked up from the sea, 87 people had been confirmed dead and 287 were still missing from the ferry, Tampomas II.

Bad weather in the Java Sea

hampered the search and it is feared most of the missing are dead.

The vessel caught fire on Sunday or Monday during a trip across the Java Sea from Jakarta, the Indonesian capital on the north-west coast of Java, to Ujung Pandang, the capital and chief port of the island of Sulawesi (Celebes), 1,000 miles to the east. There were 1,054 passengers and 82 crew on board.

The ferry sank about 220 miles from Ujung Pandang. At first reports were received stating, incorrectly, that the fire had been put out, the ship taken in tow, and all on board were safe.

The survivors have been taken to Ujung Pandang and to

Surabaya, on the north-east coast of Java.

An Indonesian maritime official said a big search by ships and aircraft was under way, but the weather was still bad. Heavy seas had prevented rescue ships from getting alongside bodies which had been sighted.

The Government sent 13 ships and five aircraft to the area. The aircraft dropped 60 rubber dinghies into the sea, but the crews reported seeing no one in the dinghies and no life jackets dotting the waves.

Shipping sources speculated that the fire broke out in one of 160 cars that were being carried by the ferry. Passengers were apparently jammed together on deck while the crew

fought the fire for more than 24 hours. It is believed that panic broke out when the ship started to go down. "Although they had life jackets on, they were all too close to one another, and in that kind of cramped situation anything can happen," an official said.

Survivors told reporters today that when last seen the ship's master, Captain Rifa, indicated he was staying with his vessel until the last.

The disaster is the third in Indonesia during the past six weeks—a landslide in West Java killed 153 people last month and in an earthquake last week in remote Irian Jaya, the western part of New Guinea, 260 are feared to have died.—AP and Reuters.

Gone are the the days of bagging 100 lions on a safari

A wildlife reserve for 60 years

From Charles Harrison

Nairobi, Jan 28. The sixtieth anniversary of the founding of what later became the Serengeti national park, in northern Tanzania, is being celebrated this week by more than 100 overseas guests, many of them leading figures in the world of wildlife conservation, and Tanzanian leaders.

Elaborate arrangements have been made to house the guests in the national park itself, after gathering in the town of Arusha near by for preliminary meetings.

Guests include: Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands, chairman of the World Wildlife Fund; the Duke of Wellington, Mr John Roberts, the Canadian Environment Minister; and Professor Bernhard Grzimek, the German naturalist, whose book *Serengeti Shall Not Die* and his television films have done much to make Serengeti a household word among conservationists.

"Although the numbers of wild animals inhabiting the Serengeti national park have been reduced, like those of other African game reserves, due to the depredations of illegal hunters, the area is still heavily populated with a wide range of game."

The annual movement of game in May and June, which involves a veritable stampede of thousands of wildebeest, zebra and other animals across

many miles of unspoiled country, is one of the most memorable of sights, and draws large numbers of visitors both to Serengeti and to the adjoining Masai Mara game reserve in Kenya.

The border between Kenya and Tanzania is closed—it was closed by Tanzania four years ago—but the animals recognize no such artificial boundary, and move freely between the two countries.

Serengeti was one of the first game reserves to be formally established in the early days of British administration after the First World War. Laws were introduced in 1921, to control hunting in the Serengeti plain and in the adjoining Ngongoro crater.

In those days there were few visitors to the area, and hunters were able to return with enormous "bags"—as many as 100 lions on a single safari—with little fear of a serious depletion of the game population.

Until 1929, lions were regarded as vermin, and could be freely shot in this area, with rewards even offered for their destruction.

In the early 1930s, part of the Serengeti area was declared a protected game reserve, where hunting was regulated. There was a growing realization of the need to conserve the game, and many photographic safaris took place before the Second World War. In addition to the traditional hunting safaris.

In 1948, Serengeti and

Ngongoro were designated as a national park, and strict conservation rules were introduced. There was a conflict between the conservationists and the picturesque Masai tribesmen who had always lived with their cattle herds alongside the wild game of the Serengeti, and resented the limitation of their traditional grazing rights.

Today Serengeti contains tourist lodges, game trails, leading strips and other facilities for tourists. The numbers of tourists visiting the area have fallen sharply since the Kenya border was closed, as tourists are no longer able to combine a visit to Serengeti with one to Kenya.

Tanzania has had some success in attracting tourists to fly direct to Tanzania, instead of to Nairobi, but the numbers doing so are small by comparison with the thousands who flock into Kenya each month.

Conservationists are now alarmed by a proposal to build a new railway across the Serengeti plains, to link the Lake Victoria port of Mwanza on the Indian Ocean port of Tanga, and so provide a new route for traffic moving to and from landlocked Uganda. There are no funds so far to build the railway, and the conservationists hope it will never materialize.

Serengeti, they say, has suffered enough encroachment, and it would be a tragedy to threaten it further.

Ban on two
more 'Post'
journalists

From Nicholas Ashford

Johannesburg, Jan 28. The South African Government has continued its purge of the black press by imposing three-year banning orders on two more black journalists.

They are: Mr Phil Mzimkulu and Mr Joe Tholole, both of whom worked for the *Post*, the Transvaal newspaper which was forced to close last week.

Both men were also senior members of the Media Workers' Association of South Africa (MWSA), a black journalists' organization which supports black consciousness ideals, and was responsible for a five-week strike of black journalists last year.

Their banning brings to five the number of members of the *Post* staff who have been placed under government restriction orders since last month. The others are: Mr Zwelakhe Sisulu, who was also the national president of MWSA; Mr Marimath Subramoney; and Mr Mathaba Tsedu.

Altogether, eight black journalists are now victims of banning orders, although one, Mr Bokwe Mafuna, is in exile.

Under the bans Mr Mzimkulu and Mr Tholole may not pursue their journalistic careers. They will be under house arrest in the evenings, at weekends and on public holidays. They may not enter any factory, school or trade union premises. Also they may not be quoted, nor attend political or social gatherings.

Both have been journalists since 1965, for several years. Mr Mzimkulu, who is 32, was first arrested and questioned by security police when he was general secretary of the Union of Black Journalists, the predecessor to MWSA, which was outlawed during the attack on black consciousness organizations in October, 1977.

Mr Tholole, aged 38, a former national president of the Union of Black Journalists, spent 18 months in detention before the 1976 Soweto disturbances. The court quashed convictions of Abdul Hamid Ibrahim Patel, aged 29, at Preston Crown Court (Judge Openshaw). He had been sentenced to four years imprisonment.

MR JUSTICE BRISTOW (sitting with Lord Justice Shaw and Mr Justice Hodgson) said that the prosecution called the chief immigration officer at Manchester Airport to prove that a named man was an illegal immigrant. His evidence was that he examined Home Office records, which

Facts later known
cannot support
legal innuendo

Grappelli and Another v Derek Block (Holdings) Ltd and Another. Before Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Templeman and Lord Justice Dunn.

[Judgments delivered January 20] A cause of action for defamation arises upon publication. Where the plaintiff relies on some special meaning of words used, a legal innuendo, the general rule is that it is necessary for him to plead and prove that the words were published to a specific person or persons who knew at the time of publication of specific facts enabling them to understand the words in the innuendo meaning.

The Court of Appeal so stated in allowing an appeal by defendants, Derek Block (Holdings) Ltd, of Wembley, Middlesex, and their employees, Mr Ray Nedas, of Oxford Circus, London, from Mr Justice Hodgson's judgment in the first instance that the allegations of libel and slander in the amended statement of claim of the plaintiffs, Mr Stephen Grappelli, violinist, of Park Lane, and Mr William Charles Disley, a professional guitarist, of Westbourne Grove, Kensington, were struck out, or that the plaintiffs within 14 days give particulars of individuals who understood the words complained to bear the innuendo meaning.

By their amended statement of claim the plaintiffs claimed damages for injurious falsehoods, slander and libel in relation to a statement by Mr Nedas on or after September 21, 1976, that "the Stephen Grappelli concert had been cancelled because Stephen Grappelli is very seriously ill in Paris" and might never tour again; that in consequence of the republication of the words, members of the public who were understood to mean by way of innuendo that the plaintiffs had given reasons for cancelling a concert at Milton Keynes on December 4, 1976, which they knew to be false; that on October 1, 1976, the *Independent Evening News* published an article which announced that Mr Grappelli had been taken ill and had had to cancel all engagements including one in Epsom, Surrey, on December 29, 1976, an advertisement announced that concerns were to be given by the *Independent Evening News* with the *Dixie* trio "at different places including St Albans, Hertfordshire, on 3, 4, 5 and 6, 1976, and that the plaintiffs save the concert as announced."

Mr Peter Bowsher, QC, and Miss Aileen Hogg for the defendants; Mr Richard Rampton for the plaintiffs. The MASTER OF THE ROLLS said that Mr Grappelli was a professional in the music business, an international reputation, and Mr Disley the leader of a trio accompanying him as part of his team. They had as members of the team Derek Block (Holdings) Ltd, promoters, who employed Mr Ray Nedas.

About June, 1976, the defendants purported to book concerts for Mr Grappelli in November and December at Milton Keynes and at other places. Mr Grappelli said that the agents had acted without authority; that it had been said on their behalf that the Milton Keynes concert had been cancelled because he was seriously ill in Paris; and that that was an entirely false statement known to be false in order to get him out of the way to a cause of action for injurious falsehood.

The plaintiffs also alleged that the statement was defamatory of them, libel or slander. It was said that it became actionable because it was untrue and that it had been booked people telephoned in to know why the concert had been cancelled when they had seen from the *Sunday Times* on November 23 that they would be appearing at other halls.

Mr Grappelli said that when people saw the information in the *Sunday Times* they would read an innuendo and would say to themselves: "That man is a fraud."

Two points were taken for the plaintiffs: (1) that at the time of the alleged innuendo there was no slander because the extrinsic facts were not known to the publisher; (2) alternatively, the defamation was not actionable because the particular members of the public were not identified: see *Duncan and Neill, Defamation* (1978), page 37, citing *Lord v. Lord* (1949) 2 KB 507, 513 and *Consolidated Trust Co v. Brouns* (1948) 49 SR (NSW) 88, 89.

The court found in favour of the plaintiffs, especially at pages 653-656. There might be exceptions to the general rule as stated by Lord Justice Templeman, but the present case was not such a case. Publication to a more limited number of publishers.

Publication was an essential part of the cause of action and once there was publication the cause of action was complete. There was no room for the principle that the evidence about the innuendo was somehow or other inchoate.

Solicitors: Inglefield, Brown, Bessington & Garrett; Marsh, Regan.

Probing Home Office
immigrants records

Regina v Patel. Home Office records relating to an alleged illegal immigrant did not prove themselves and had to be proved by an officer responsible for their compilation and custody, the Court of Appeal held, when allowing an appeal against convictions for assisting illegal entry into the United Kingdom.

The court quashed convictions of Abdul Hamid Ibrahim Patel, aged 29, at Preston Crown Court (Judge Openshaw). He had been sentenced to four years imprisonment.

MR JUSTICE BRISTOW (sitting with Lord Justice Shaw and Mr Justice Hodgson) said that the prosecution called the chief immigration officer at Manchester Airport to prove that a named man was an illegal immigrant. His evidence was that he examined Home Office records, which

showed that the man was not entitled to a certificate of registration in the United Kingdom and was an illegal immigrant. Those Home Office records were hearsay, just as were the commercial records in *Murphy v DPP* (1965) AC 1001. They could not speak for themselves and were not within the classes of documents which the Criminal Evidence Act, 1965, covered.

An officer responsible for their compilation and custody should have been called to give evidence that the method of compilation and custody was such that if the man's name was not there he had to be an illegal immigrant. It was not suggested that the immigration officer was such an officer. The judge was wrong in law to rely on the evidence about the state of the records.

Appeals to single judge

Order 55, rules 4a and 5 of the Rules of the Supreme Court have been amended to determine appeals by case stated in the types of proceedings mentioned in the order to be heard by a single judge and only by a Divisional Court of the Family Division if the court so directs.

A Practice Direction, issued by the President, states: "The rules require that the papers be lodged in the Principal Registry of the Family Division, but there is no requirement in the rules that the single judge must be a single

judge sitting in London. Accordingly, any party wishing the appeal to be heard by a single judge should apply to the President for a direction to that effect. The application should be made by letter addressed to the clerk of the rules. Where such a direction is given, the clerk of the rules will inform the appellant of the relevant divorce town and will refer the papers to the High Court officer that appropriate circuit office for a date of hearing to be fixed and notified to the applicant."

Registrar may extend time

In re a Debtor 138/80. Lord Justice Ormrod, sitting with Lord Justice Brightman and Mr Justice Reeve in the Court of Appeal, said in a judgment of the court that a registrar who had a discretionary power under section 109(4) of the Bankruptcy Act 1914, to extend the time for allowing a creditor to file an affidavit relating to a claim, set-off or cross-claim against his creditor: rule 137(b) of the Bankruptcy Rules, 1952.

The statement in *Williams on Bankruptcy*, 19th edition, page 467, was based on a misunderstanding of *In re a Debtor* (1933) 1 WLR 1050 and was not correct.

In the present case the Affidavit was filed after the expiry

of the seven-day period appropriate under rule 138 (as amended) but before the expiry of the 10-day period before an act of bankruptcy was committed under section 11(1)(g) of the Act. The debtor had asked that the affidavit be admitted as a valid claim although it was filed two days out of time.

LAW STUDIES
Bar Final Revision Course
(24 Feb.-10th April, 1981)
A Level, Ex. LL.B., Business
Details:
33 Warran St., W.1. 387 8180



Paul Eddington

Not the Good Life

How would you enjoy this recipe for living? Spend all day completely alone, always; see no-one to talk to except the milkman (or postman, if ever he comes); find it a struggle to shop; have nowhere to go and meet other people; and usually be cold because you can't afford much heat. Tough even for you—much harder if you were really old.

That's what daily life is like for many thousands of our old people. Yes, I'm sure you sympathise, as I do. Let's do more than that. There are two ways of putting our sympathy into effective action: sending what we can to increase Help the Aged's work here and now; and leaving a legacy to keep on providing practical help long after we are gone.

Help the Aged have prepared two helpful booklets on this subject. One on all aspects you need consider before instructing your solicitor, and the other on how to reduce the effect of Capital Gains Tax, by making a bequest to charity.

If you would like copies of the booklet (and, if it interests you, details of the unique house bequest plan), they will gladly be sent without obligation.

The Taxman Can Add to Your Donation—If your gift is made by a single covenant form you increase its value to old people by 43 pence in every £—or even more if you are on a high tax rate. Details sent without obligation.

Please write to: Hon. Treasurer, The Rt. Hon. Lord Maybray-King, Help the Aged, Room 111, Freepost 30, London W1E 7JZ (no stamp needed).

Largest cave
chamber found

Miri, Malaysia, Jan 28.—The world's largest cave chamber has been discovered in Borneo. It is about 16 times the size of a football field and was found in the Mulu National Park in the east Malaysian state of Sarawak, 150 miles east of Miri.

The chamber was about 1,100 yds long, 1,000 yds wide and 280 yds high and was located about 12 miles from the cave's main entrance. Mr Andrew Eavis, leader of the Royal Geographical Society expedition, said today.—Reuters.

Everest failure

Katmandu, Jan 28.—A severe snowstorm has forced a Japanese mountaineering team to abandon its attempt to climb Everest.

Air fare case angers Singapore

From David Watts

Singapore, Jan 28. A domestic Australian dispute over the refusal of the Government to permit discounting of air fares has soured relations with Singapore.

Today Mr Geoffrey Price, the Australian High Commissioner in Singapore, was called into the Foreign Ministry to hear complaints about the alleged harassment of Singapore Airlines, and its passengers in Australia.

The inter-government dispute, the latest in a series of public clashes over trade, has resulted from the prosecution in Australia of Singapore Airlines for allegedly contravening Australian law by selling discount airline tickets.

believes the airline was singled out for prosecution, but this was denied by Mr Price last week. Since then there have been reports from Australia that Singapore Airlines passengers have been having their tickets closely scrutinised. At least one passenger is reported to have been made to pay the difference between the bargain price at which he bought the ticket and the full price.

Last August the Australian Government warned airlines that Singapore Airlines passengers would be having their tickets put through a "rigorous" investigation and their agencies at risk.

Singapore Airlines seems to have been the main victim of the government campaign. One Australian newspaper recently named several foreign airlines

involved in discounting, but said only cases involving Singapore Airlines had been prosecuted.

Singapore Airlines retaliated yesterday with a series of advertisements in Australian newspapers, reassuring customers that their tickets were valid.

The Singapore Government in its statement today said it did not want to comment on the legality of the summonses, but said: "In the light of persistent reports and increasing evidence that Singapore Airlines (SIA) is being singled out for investigation and its innocent passengers harassed, the Singapore Government is deeply concerned and is making strong representations to the Australian Government."

reform, it would have to be supported by the public as well as by teachers, parents and governors in schools.

The idea of a national language commission was intriguing, but it was doubtful if agreement on a programme of reform would be possible.

Parliamentary notices

House of Commons
Today at 2.30: Debate on reports of Public Accounts Committee.
House of Lords
Today at 2 p.m.: Social Security (contributions) Bill; National Insurance (contributions) Bill; Repatriation and Remittance Bill; Reservoirs Bill; Land Drainage Bill; and Regeneration of the People Trust, second readings.

Bristol left
out in the
cold

SPORT

England selectors will take close look at form of Downton

From John Woodcock
Cricket Correspondent

From the main stand on the Amies Vale Oval in St Vincent, Jan 28, one of those nice old wooden constructions which you see in the background of photographs of county cricket in the twenties and thirties—there is a balcony view of the islands of the Grenadines which are incorporated with St Vincent, the nearest of them being about 100 miles away.

The sea will be no more than 100 yards from where, at one end, the opening batsmen in the two-day matches England are to play here (against Windward Islands starting on Friday and the one-day international against West Indies next Wednesday) will start their run.

It is St Vincent's population of 100,000 more than one in ten are expected to watch the international, which will be the biggest cricket match ever staged here.

England, even if they have not played on the island before, though the New Zealand did so in 1971 and the Indians in 1976—and Boycott called a match on the Queen Elizabeth 2 a few weeks ago. Much hard work has been done on the pitch, which looks good, although it is sure to be slow.

To fit in Downton, Embury, Stevenson and Willis, who did not play at Pointe-à-Pitre, Bortham, Boycott, Balfour, Miller and Old stand down for the four-day match starting on Friday. Boycott will be No 3 and Willis at No 4, ahead of Gower and Gatting, who were both among the runs last week. Willis will captain the side.

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Willis: captains England against Windward Islands.

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Motor rallying

Therier and partner lead by three minutes

Monte Carlo, Jan 28.—Jean-Luc Therier and Michel Vial of France, in their Peugeot 504, won the 1981 Grand National Rally, held a lead of more than three minutes over the works Renault 5 Turbo of their compatriot Jean Ragnotti and Jean-Pierre André after the final special stage.

Therier looked supremely confident and his outwardly battered, but exceptionally powerful red and white Peugeot 504, with mountain roads from snow.

Scotch mist over four of the 18 special stages of the run enabled Therier and Vial to be in control of the competition.

As dawn rose, Ragnotti had forged ahead of the Talbot Lotus of another all-French crew, Guy Frequentin and Jean Todt, who earlier had been engaged in a fascinating battle for overall second place.

In all, only 143 of the 200 crews which roared out of Monaco on Thursday night, were in the competition as leading competitors completed the sixteenth of the 18-stage run. Among top scorers were the Renault 5 Turbo of Ragnotti and Jean-Pierre André, who had made the most of their special stages, and Per Eklund and Ragnar Spjuth in a Volvo.

The all-Italian crew of Attilio Benza and Christian Benza, who had made the most of their special stages, and Per Eklund and Ragnar Spjuth in a Volvo.

Strada completed only five of the run's special stages, and Per Eklund and Ragnar Spjuth in a Volvo.

The bearded Swedish driver shone so brightly in last year's competition also failed to reach Monaco.

The turning point of the rally came on the morning when the flying Finn, Hannu Mikkola, who had dominated the classification run of the event, crashed into a ditch in his works Audi, Mikkola fought his way back into the top 10 standings in the revolutionary four-wheel-drive car.

His first appearance in the world championship, but he lost all chance of scoring his first victory in the world's most famous rally.

He proved that a hard and dangerous man can be reduced by good driving sense. It was a big fight for Sibson and he showed his brilliant technical skills.

There is no doubt that when Sibson went down from that perfect right hand in the first round and picked himself up and dusted himself down and then started to drive the Bellamy, his stock moved several points up the WBC scale. He gave you the impression that at last Britain had a world champion.

So it would be in Minter's interest to have a meeting with Sibson as soon as possible and if he comes through unscathed to go for Hagler. While Minter's position is a dusting, his little time to think. He will have one more contest before facing his European title against Saenz Gomez, of Spain, in April.

Boxing

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Racing

Everyone wants to get on Spartan Missile

By Michael Seely

Spartan Missile was the popular choice of most of the professionals assembled at the Ladbroke conference to announce the weights for the 1981 St. Leger National Handicap, John Thorne's gallant winner of 15 hunter-chases has been allotted 11 st 4 lb. Whether his owner, breeder and rider takes the mount at Ascot depends on him being able to shed enough pounds.

"My riding weight is 12 st 12 lb," the Warwickshire farmer said, "but I have every hope that I will be able to waste enough before April 24." Thorne's gallant winner of 15 hunter-chases has been allotted 11 st 4 lb. Whether his owner, breeder and rider takes the mount at Ascot depends on him being able to shed enough pounds.

"My riding weight is 12 st 12 lb," the Warwickshire farmer said, "but I have every hope that I will be able to waste enough before April 24." Thorne's gallant winner of 15 hunter-chases has been allotted 11 st 4 lb. Whether his owner, breeder and rider takes the mount at Ascot depends on him being able to shed enough pounds.

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THE ARTS

An actress to arouse the passions

She is 43 now, although she looks 10 years younger, one of the world's most famous faces, one of America's most controversial figures. A recent opinion poll found that 49 per cent of Americans held her in high regard, 45 per cent in low regard, and only 6 per cent had no opinion; even Presidents generally pull at least 20 per cent of "don't know".

But the passionate Jane Fonda aroused in the early 1970s, when she toured the country speaking out against the Vietnam War, do not dispel easily. It took her six years, working through her own production company, to mount *Coming Home*, her Oscar for the part of Sally Hyde, the woman who falls in love with a paraplegic Vietnam veteran, rehabilitated her in the eyes of Hollywood at least. Then came *The China Syndrome* (co-produced with Michael Douglas), another combination of social relevance and commercial success.

Now IPC—her company is named after the Indo-China Peace Organization, an old activist group where Fonda first met her partner, Bruce Gilbert—has completed its third film, *Nine to Five*, which opens in London next week. It is a comedy about secretaries and office life with the comedian Lily Tomlin, the country singer star Dolly Parton, and of course Miss Fonda. It represents a change of pace from all those television reporters and career women she has been playing of late.

"My ideas for films always come from things that I hear and perceive in my daily life. In this case, a very old friend of mine had started an organization in Boston called 'Nine to Five', which was an association of women office workers. I heard them talking about their work and they had some great stories. And I've always been attracted to those 1940s films with three female stars.

"At first we were going to make a drama. But say what we

did it, it seemed too preppy, too much of a feminist line. I'd wanted to work with Lily Tomlin for some time, and it suddenly occurred to me that we should make it a comedy. It remains a labour of love, but I hope of a new kind different from *The Grapes of Wrath* or *Salt of the Earth*. We took out a lot of stuff that was filmed, even stuff the director, Colin Higgins, thought worked but which I asked to have taken out. I'm just super-sensitive to anything that smacks of the soapbox or lecturing the audience."

Jane Fonda worried about lecturing an audience? It seems she has found a new synthesis between politics and showbusiness, between her work with her husband Tom Hayden and the Campaign for Economic Democracy and her activities on the film set. She is more relaxed than she used to be, and surer of herself.

"I spent 20 years as an actress having no control over my own work, and frankly I didn't enjoy it all that much. There were a couple of parts—*Julie* and *They Shoot Horses, Don't They?*—which were good experiences, but that's all. When it became hard for me to get roles in the early 1970s, because of my politics, I thought very seriously about going to acting together. It was really friends who persuaded me otherwise. Instead, I formed IPC with Bruce and decided to develop my own projects, and that made all the difference to me. The film work I do, the kids making sure *The Workout* [her Los Angeles exercise studio] is a successful business. That's what my life is about now, along with raising money for CDD."

Surprisingly, she found Ronald Reagan's victory in the United States Presidential election far from dispiriting.

"Yes, of course, Reagan stands for everything we're opposed to. But when he was,

I felt that old feeling of wanting to participate again. Not because of Reagan but because of the Democratic Party. There's a vacuum on the Democratic side now which I think is pretty healthy. The people who were running the party were from the New Deal era and that doesn't work any more. As a matter of fact, my hope lies with the women *Nine to Five* was made for. I really believe this is going to be a decade of women and office workers. Most office workers are women, and at the same time women are being forced out of the home and into jobs because a family needs two salaries these days. It's an interesting two-way pincer movement.

"I always research all my characters, and for *Nine to Five* I went looking for women who had begun work in the life, due to divorce or being widowed. I think my political activism actually helps me as a film actress because I don't live isolated from everyday problems or everyday life. I'm not just mixing with wealthy people. What I found was that secretaries know the work they do is important, is skilled, but they also know they're not treated with respect. They call themselves 'office wives'. They have to put up with the boss's car, get his coffee, but the presents for his wife and mistress. So when we came to do the film, we said to Colin [Higgins], OK, what you have to do is write a screenplay which shows you can run an office without a boss, but you can't run an office without the secretaries."

While *Nine to Five* was being edited, Fonda was up in New England making *On Golden Pond* with Katherine Hepburn and her father, Henry Fonda, the first time father and daughter had acted together. "I have a small part in the movie, but it's a 43-year-old woman who has never gotten what she needs from her father and how that cat-

arisis has to occur before she can move on in her life." Fonda pauses, well aware that she and Henry Fonda were estranged for many years. "It was one of the most moving experiences of my life, playing that part with my father. He's been very, very sick. He's right now, but sometimes I look at him and it's like looking at a parchment with a candle behind it."

Her next film for her own company will be *Roll Over*, with Kris Kristofferson, directed by Alan Pakula, who worked with her in *Kluge*. "I depend on my director. I'd never want to direct myself. I like the fact that someone else is ultimately responsible. I like to be told what to do and what I am doing wrong. And when the day is over, I like to go home and forget about it, which is virtually impossible if you're the director."

"*Roll Over* is the most ambitious film Bruce and I have tackled. I play a businesswoman, but right at the caber end of the spectrum—the person at the top. That insulated, isolated world of the very rich and powerful. We did three years of research with the government and in banks—the film is set in the banking world. I think we've got it right."

Fonda and Gilbert also have plans to move into television, starting with a series based on *Nine to Five*. "I am aware that a whole lot of people never go to the movies. I grew up with an elitist attitude about television, like if you were a television actor you were only waiting for the day you could break into films. But the sheer quality of people whose main form of entertainment is television is too great to ignore that audience. Reaching as many people as possible is very important to me."

Joan Goodman

Jane Fonda in *Nine to Five*



Packing a punch

RPO/Masur Festival Hall

Paul Griffiths

There was something thunderous and mighty about Tuesday's concert by the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and Kurt Masur. No doubt it had much to do with the presence at the end of the programme of Beethoven's fifth symphony, but the effect rippled back right through the evening, even to Bartók's Divertimento for strings at the start. And a divertimento really ought to be allowed to be more engaging and spirited. The use here of a full symphonic string contingent, playing coarsely, encouraged Mr Masur in his fierce dynamism, and within that context the solo passages would have sounded frail even if they had been better performed.

A strong lead from the conductor was, however, a real advantage in the concerto, Mendelssohn's second for piano, in D minor. It was not that the soloist, Andras Schiff, did not have ideas of his own; indeed, right from a silky arpeggio whisked up the keyboard in the opening bars, this was a performance that found a palpable musical sense in every phrase, apart from being simply beautiful in tone. But the dramatic and sometimes gruff accompaniment in the first movement was needed to set the stage. Less welcome was the sentimental solemnity, recalling the worst of Mendelssohn's religious music, that Mr Masur introduced in the slow movement, and that Mr Schiff smartly turned into the fresh poetry of a song without words.

The Beethoven performance was notable for using the edition by Peter Gülke whose most surprising feature is the whole sale extent of the scherzo and trio before the adventuring into the finale. Whether or not this was Beethoven's final intention for the symphony is unclear; what is certain is that the extra weighting of the third movement made the work's progress even more powerful.

So it seemed to a prodigious extent in this account, where Mr Masur was never loath to change the whole orchestral climate from moment to moment. There were marvellous effects in the scherzo, a professional in the slow movement, falling to leave an echo on the horns, or the textured interplay of woodwinds and pizzicato strings, or the sense of novelty in the entrance of the piccolo, but it needed a stronger stomach than mine to stay with Mr Masur quite to the end.

Amadeus/Klien Queen Elizabeth Hall

Noël Goodwin

What should have been the second stage in a journey through the Beethoven string quartets had to become a Mozart programme instead on Tuesday with only three-quarters of the Amadeus Quartet able to keep the date. Their second violinist, Siegmund Nissel, has been ill, and although I understand he is convalescing well they have decided that their next concert in two weeks should also be changed to Beethoven trios instead of quartets.

Much of their programme this time was given to the only string trio by Mozart, which he pervertedly called a divertimento, presumably on account of it having six movements. In spite of that the players took a serious view of it, which yielded plenty of attractive moments in the first half, once they had accustomed themselves to the new balance of tone and texture. The work is indeed notable for its equality of interest between the individual parts, and Peter Schidlöf in particular relished what must be Mozart's most rewarding writing for the viola.

The variations of the fourth movement through to the end and however a certain stolidness clouded the performance, a reluctance to give way to the humorous intent that Mozart must surely have had in mind in basing the last variations and the finale on the kind of popular tunes that Papageno might have whistled. As a result the less cheerful passages lacked what strength and character they can gain by contrast when the rest is given more careful phrasing.

Framing the trio were the two piano quartets, in which the string players were joined by Walter Klien as a colleague in the best sense. The first to say his keyboard style left no doubt of the depth of musical purpose in the G minor quartet, the genial elegance of the E flat quartet and the concert-like qualities of the writing in both.

He also achieved a balance that made apparent Mozart's originality and conception as the four solo instruments combined in a new way for listeners' pleasure then and our present delight now.

Martin Huckerby

The Relapse Old Vic

Irving Wardle

Well before the events that gave rise to John Wells's new prologue ("The axe falls, and our Minister of Arts is now a man of more divided parts") *The Relapse* had recommended itself to the Old Vic as one of their economy year popular favourites. And, like *Trelawny of the Wells*, it again illustrates the management's tormented policy of playing safe at the box office while simultaneously demonstrating London's need for a third classical company.

The answer Michael Simpson's production offers to this brain teaser is to present Vanbrugh's comedy in its entirety against a rudimentary setting consisting of a few strategically arranged hand props and flown backdrops that make a token appearance between the spectator and the back wall.

It is a touring show, and it looks like one. It also reveals how much more there is to the piece than one character that everybody has come to see. Presented in his full surrounding context, Lord Foppington shrinks into a smallish role, in point of lines; his very appearance (coupled with the vital impact of his every gesture, gesture and ever proliferating ribbons), but around him there stretch quantities of other people's intrigues that pull the show out to some three and a half hours. I would like to say that here, at last, is the revelation of the work Vanbrugh intended. And there are new insights and pleasures; such as the development of old Coupler (Bob Herroery) into a substantial role, beginning as a ready old schemer, and growing in resourcefulness as the intrigue thickens, until he finally achieves full authority as an invincible matchmaker.

Another surprise is the full-on baroque masque that Sir Trelawny lays on for Foppington's wedding, at which point the two evening-suited clarinetists who have supplied anachronistic links between the earlier scenes at last come into their own. The dominant impression,



Celia Foxe, Richard Kay

Photograph by Donald Cooper

however, is of quantities of routine exchanges of high-toned conversation, dialogue assembled from those clip-together metaphors of storming citadels and coming safely into port, which make considerable demands on the audience's staying power. That, of course, is a comment on performance. The casting is extremely variable; but, to put it crudely, the men come off much the best. Maureen O'Brien's Amanda has the right blend of rebellious rectitude but without much trace of comic epiphany, while Colin Fennell's Berinthia is gallantly unlikely as an erotic trouble-maker; never have I heard her *sotto voce* "Help help" as Loveless carts her off to bed—raise less of a laugh.

Things are much better with the men. Actors are apt to take congratulations on memorization as an insult, but Richard Kay deserves some award for his last-minute creation of the role of Loveless.

Length apart, the point about this continuously masked character is that the least interruption of fluency would be fatal to its effect, and Mr Kay sup-

plies the exact image of an inwardly tormented husband maintaining a surface manner of relaxed urbanity that would be fully at home in the more conscience-wracked stretches of Peter Nichols's *Possession Play*.

Of the two obvious leads, John Nettles's Foppington takes his cue from one of the girls' lines that the former Sir Novelty is no fool. Under the fills he is as rampant a male as Little Red Riding Hood's wolf; and he also leaves you with some respect for Foppington as a kindly comformist.

The Clumsey household, ornamented with a fine chunky Hynden from Julia Swift, shoulders habitually bent forward as for a rigger scum, is properly dominated by Barry Stanton's Sir Trelawny, a border-honour in whom the wild hunter is perpetually at war with the magistrate, and who runs the place on paramilitary lines, marching his pitchfork-brandishing retainers around at the double, and sitting down with them, literally as one man, on a cramped stall so that, when he stands or sits, so unavailingly do they.

Reverend Carmine unearthly many more silly and sentimental songs, exploring particularly the rich vein of Irving Berlin's tunes and lyrics. It is the sort of thing they have been doing in Greenwich Village for 10 years as benefits for Rev. Carmine's Judson Memorial Church, the home of one of the most influential Off Broadway theatres since 1961, the Judson Poets Theatre.

It would not quite state the case to say they do it well. Rev Carmine plays the piano well and sings with charm and they find a splendid passing harmony from time to time but their particularly theatrical skills need a more dramatic frame. Mostly they pass musical possibilities back and forth to one another with calculated regularity, from Broadway schmaltz to Hollywood whimsy.

There are real delights in the selections, from "Smile" in the Bathhouse to "I Love a Piano" but the most intriguing bit for a London audience must be Rev Carmine on his own. Sandwiched between the interval and a return to Jerome Kern and the company, of extra 1981-82, has now found an extra £60,000, and this is sufficient to enable the company to offer the musicians a 5 per cent bonus.

Even if agreement can be reached with the orchestra, and with the other unions later this year, the company must make further severe cuts if it is to survive: it wants to reduce the number of salaried principal singers and it is keeping the orchestra at a strength of 38 instead of about 55 as planned. The company is currently discussing plans for an appeal and for a self-help campaign by which supporters of Scottish Opera can play

France developing a taste for Britten

Peter Grimes Opéra, Paris

Kenneth Loveland

In acknowledging the status of Peter Grimes, Paris has been less ready than most important musical capitals. Covent Garden took it to the Opéra in June 1948, with Karl Rankl conducting, and Richard Lewis in the title role, but it had not been seen there since until the current performances. In the French provinces it has fared better, with productions in Strasbourg (1949), Bordeaux (1954), and Marseilles (1957). Now it has returned to the Opéra, scoring what can only be described as a triumph.

The Opéra has imported Covent Garden's keenly observed, dramatically structured production by Elijah Moshinsky, and with it the personae of Peter Grimes of Jon Vickers. Otherwise the cast is new, a team of mostly British, French or French-based artists singing in English and conducted by John Pritchard, who will also direct the work in Cologne in May.

The opening night this week Peter Grimes conquered its audience as it must always do when imaginatively staged, sensitively conducted and played and sung by a cast alive

to the nature of Britten's lyricism. The cheers at the end of Act I were of an order usually reserved for the final curtain of a successful premiere. At the close, the enthusiasm was immense and extended.

In its transfer to the Opéra, Moshinsky's production has retained all its virtues of striking simplicity, fundamentally sharp outlines and practical mobility, the designs of Timothy O'Brien and Tazena Firth have preserved their relevance, and the production's power to give Britten's musical prompting a graphic visual evocation is as immediate and exciting as it was in its home theatre.

Against this background there emerges a brilliantly contrasted pattern of characterisation from the newcomers. Most notable among these is the Captain Balstrode of Benjamin Luxon, making his Opéra debut and conveying a realistic impression of human warmth and compassion within a weatherbeaten exterior. Patricia Wells is a sympathetically drawn Ellen Orford, deeply moving in the despair of imagined defeat. Other notable studies are the bible-flourishing, fanatically bellowing Bob Boles of Alexander Oliver, Jocelyne Tailleur's darkly ominous Mrs Sedley, Gino Quilico's debonair and richly sung Ned Keene, Michel Senéchal's portrait of a Rector overtaken by

the support of the British Council and Barclays Group of Banks, this is the work of Charles Pitt, for whom it has clearly been a work of diligent research and devoted labour.

In the first tableau, it is apparent that a consistent strand will be Britten's philosophy of the composer in the marketplace, the ivory tower rejected, and the later dovetailing of personal reminiscence with the numerous production pictures gives this theme emphasis.

Those who have followed the Britten story down the years will find much nostalgia in the pictures of the Malings in ashes and risen again, of the informal meeting (Benjamin Britten, Peter Pears, Joan Cross, Eric Crozier and John Piper) out of which the English Opera Group was born, the wartime journey of the Axel Johnson bringing Britten home from America, Britten at ease among the Aldeburgh fishing boats and the wide-ranging photographs of production. There is a proper tribute to Roger Lalande, who pioneered Peter Grimes in provincial France.

The exhibition at the Opéra stays open until March 20, and will be shown later with the Cologne production of Peter Grimes and Geneva's *Albert Herring*. Like the Opéra production of Peter Grimes, it should do much to stir a more positive French appreciation of the composer's art.

Arts agenda

Scottish Opera, faced with possible industrial action over its proposed wage freeze, has received a promise of extra funds from the Scottish Arts Council and is now hopeful that a strike can be averted.

The last year has been disastrous for the company: its productions have run into increasing criticism; in June Peter Ebert, its general administrator, resigned; its deficit stands at £440,000; and it is now planning a reduced programme of just six productions in Glasgow in the coming year.

When it announced the wage freeze, the company said it was its effort to clear half the deficit by March next year, there were threats of industrial action by the Musicians' Union. But the arts council, which initially promised Scottish Opera a grant of £2m for 1981-82, has now found an extra £60,000, and this is sufficient to enable the company to offer the musicians a 5 per cent bonus.

Even if agreement can be reached with the orchestra, and with the other unions later this year, the company must make further severe cuts if it is to survive: it wants to reduce the number of salaried principal singers and it is keeping the orchestra at a strength of 38 instead of about 55 as planned. The company is currently discussing plans for an appeal and for a self-help campaign by which supporters of Scottish Opera can play

their part in saving the company.

Amid all the controversy about a cancelled first night at Covent Garden, Luciano Pavarotti is a happy if somewhat reluctant participant in the opening night of *Il barbiere di Siviglia* in the company's new production, which is being mounted in New York, and while he sang in later performances, he says: "In the past two weeks I'm more in the air on Concord than I'm down on the ground."

The operation went well and his father was with him in London on the way home to Italy. Just before the operation they sang an encore together at La Scala. "I said I might be the last chance, and this was the stage where we had to sing," Pavarotti receives between 5,000 and 6,000 letters a year from fans wanting him to make an LP with his father. Now, he thinks, they will perhaps get round to making the record.

On Saturday the Citizens Theatre in Glasgow is opening its production of a rarely seen play which some experts believe is not really a proper play at all: *The Measure* at Paris by Christopher Marlowe. The theatre says that some people think the script which has survived only represents edited highlights of the original. "The text is certainly strange. It is a very short play and I think there are 17 murders."

With a cast of four, playing something like 30 characters, it seems an eccentric project but, directed and designed by Philip Prowse, it sounds as if it has the ingredients to become another of the Citizens' unlikely successes.

Later this spring, the company is offering an even more outlandish piece: the premiere of *The Last Days of Mankind* by Karl Kraus—a vast documentary-type epic, written at the start of the First World War when the author, a Viennese, believed the world really was coming to an end. When it failed to end, he refused to let the work be performed. Kraus thought it would have taken 10 evenings to perform, in full, but it has been translated and adapted by Robert David MacDonald to fit into a single evening, which promises, according to the theatre, "a succession of nightmares."

Elizabeth Schwarzkopf, who was in London recently to give a lecture on the interpretation of Liszt, is taking on a new mantle later this spring—that of an opera producer. The work she has chosen is one close to her heart: Strauss's *Der Rosenkavalier*, of which she made a memorable recording in the 1950s with Karajan. She will be producing the opera in Brussels in May, with Elisabeth Söderström and Anne Howell in the leading roles.

Although she has not pro-

duced an opera before, she says: "I think it is quite natural for a singer who can no longer sing." (She gave her last recital in March 1979.) Her aim is to turn back entirely to the score: "By serving the work, I think I will serve the public." She is not sure whether producing will become a regular occupation in future. "I would only do the things I really do know," she says.

Ken Campbell, settling in as artistic director at the Everyman Theatre in Liverpool, is offering a typically varied programme, which begins tonight with *Lucky Strike* by Krant Alanak, a work composed entirely of B-movie clichés; it will be followed by a play about the country and western singer Hank Williams. Later productions include the premiere of an adaptation of Karel Capek's satirical novel *The War with the Neutts*, and two operatic pieces based on gothic horror stories. Next month there will also be a late night revue by Andrew Dalmeier which should appeal to low and highbrows alike: its title is *Metaphysics and Strip*.

NOT TO BE MISSED: Jesse Norman sings Strauss's *Four Last Songs* and Lulu's Song by Berg with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra under Kurt Masur at the Festival Hall (7.30 pm, Sunday).

A Winter Garland Riverside Studios

Ned Chaillet

With the matter of "No dancing girls", a fellow critic abandoned the front row to explore the new three-sided seating at Riverside Studios. A few minutes later, however, out of the emptiness of the stage and the spare format of a two-man show, with piano, David Vaughan proved himself the next best thing to a chorus line. Turning from the task of sharing old show-business lyrics with Al Carmine he started spinning around the stage to a silly 1939 song, "Moonstruck".

In their celebration of Broadway and early film musicals, *A Winter Garland of Songs Old and New*, Mr Vaughan and the

Martin Scorsese BAFTA

Nicholas Wapshott

Public speaking does not come naturally to Martin Scorsese. Behind a camera he is elegantly articulate, as in *Mean Streets* or *Alien Doesn't Live Here Anymore*. But in his private life he is shy and in his public life he is almost unrecognisable. He is a chronic asthmatic who is difficult to track down between illnesses.

It is strange, then, that Scorsese has made it his business to embark upon a tour of public appearances of extraordinary length to publicize his passionate concern. Angered by a New York screening of Stanley Kubrick's 2001 where the colour had faded, he discovered that all colour films are at risk. Scorsese has since become a colour film evangelist, starting an almost single-handed campaign to bring the facts to a wider public.

At the British Academy of Film and Television Arts in

Piccadilly on Tuesday evening, he spent nearly three hours rambling around the subject (in Tokyo a similar lecture had taken five-and-a-half hours). What Scorsese said boiled down to this: since Technicolor's three-colour cumbersome process was replaced by Kodak Eastman film stock in the mid-fifties, colour films have been deteriorating their range of colours reduced to pink and blue.

There are a limited number of ways of saving the prints made in the last 25 years. They may be transferred to a three-colour process, which is costly

and bulky, or kept cool in expensive air-conditioned vaults. To prevent current films from fading, the most obvious thing would be to return to the old, stable Technicolor process. There is, however, only one Technicolor factory in the world, in China.

Scorsese backed his thesis with many telling examples. A 1967 current film from fading, the most obvious thing would be to return to the old, stable Technicolor process. There is, however, only one Technicolor factory in the world, in China.

debilitating disease which will affect the print has only hardened his resolve. He says that the problem has gone past the stage of pointing fingers and laying the blame. What he is concerned about is saving the films. And, most importantly for a man whose career began in the pulp cinema of Roger Corman, he hopes that there will be no discrimination. Many historically important films are not Oscar-winners or critical successes but minor works by little-known directors. *The Creeping Terror* is one of the best films about America in the 50s, he said, and even hope.

William Cameron Menzies made films like *The Invaders* from Marx.

What Scorsese now hopes is that the film industry will step in and develop some way of stabilizing colour film. There must be an urgent need to transfer fading films to secure mediums. And, for future directors and actors must demand in their contracts that their work will be maintained for posterity. For the archivists present, still raising money to transfer monochrome films from combustible nitrate stock, it must have seemed a fond hope.



Paul Griffiths



Bernard Levin

Don't ask a policeman

Very early this morning, timing the transaction so that it should be completed before the news-
paper in which these words
appear would become available
to the general public, I sold my
watch, getting a good price for
it. If it is still early when you
are reading me, I advise you to
drop whatever else you are
doing—having breakfast, catch-
ing the 8.15, taking the children
to school—follow my
example—because before the
day reaches eleven, these time-
pieces of every description will
be no more than scrap metal,
so devastating will be the force
of the revelations I am about to
make.

It appears that in 1972 a new
basis of telling the time was
established by international
agreement. The details need
not concern us, particularly
since I do not understand them
and I don't suppose you would
either, but the principle is
simple: the length of the day
was no longer to be calculated
by the time it took the earth to
revolve on its axis, but by a
system wholly independent of
the solar day, based as it was
instead on the vibrations in the
atoms of an obscure metal
called caesium.

Why, or for that matter how,
the world decided upon a
method of calculating the length
of the day that took no account
of the length of the day, I can
not tell; for my present pur-
pose, however, it is not neces-
sary to know. Mind you, I could
have told them that the decision
would lead to tears before bed-
time, especially since there
would now be no means of tell-
ing the difference between bed-
time and Michaelmas; no doubt
that is why they concealed the
news from me until they had
accomplished their purpose.
But whatever the degree of
culpability involved in the
original decision, and whoever
the culprits might have been,
it is the situation today (which
may now mean) which con-
cerns me.

You may say
that two
thousandths of
a second a
day is not
much to worry
about, and no
doubt in
itself it isn't...

For the hideous truth is that,
since they started mucking
about with the time, there has
been a discrepancy between the
old form and the new, and the
method that depended upon
watching the world go round
and the system that involved
counting the quiverings of
atoms, like a billion insomniacs
counting sheep. In the atom-day,
there are 86,400 seconds; but
in the good old solar day there
were—and still are, for the
world has not stopped revolving
just because the caesium atom
has started vibrating—an
average of 86,400.002 seconds,
a difference of two-thousandths
of a second a day.

You may say that two-
thousandths of a second a
day is not much to worry about,
and no doubt in itself it isn't. But
you see, the discrepancy is
always in the same direction;
instead of solar time being a bit
short one day and a bit long the
next, the discrepancy between the
two forms of time measurement
will amount to an entire minute
in a mere 82 years, and that means
a "hundred years from now
who'll know the difference?"—
is at last answered: the answer
is "Anyone who can count".
For a century from now the
discrepancy between the two
forms of time measurement will
indeed be a full 75 seconds.

Whence, you will realise, my
decision to get rid of my watch,
for it is set to solar time, and
obviously a man who has
appointments cannot afford a
watch that will be an entire
second wrong after only 161
months, and three seconds out
in four years.

But thought's the slave of life,
and life-time's fool;
And time, that takes survey of
all the world,
Must have a stop.

So said Shakespeare, who
also boasted that
Not marble, nor the gilded
monuments

Of princes, shall outlive this
powerful rhyme,
thereby, however, reckoning
without the clowns who have
so mucked up the time that
there is no telling what will
outlive what any longer. Of
course, there will be the usual
cranks who will ask why on
earth, if you will excuse the
expression, anyone would want
to know the length of the day
just worked it out with my
trustworthy pocket calculator? Of
one in something over forty-three
million, but such people do not
realise that science moves in
a mysterious way its wonders
to perform, and that there are
even now scientists going bus-
sied with the effort to count
the vibration in an atom of
bophonium, following a report
to the effect that if they based
the length of the day on that
instead they would be able to
get it right to within a margin
not of one in forty-three mil-
lion, but one in eighty-six
million or even more. For it is
an axiom of science that for a
given quantity of anything, is
good, then twice that quantity
must be at least twice as good
if not more, and it must follow
that the more accurate the
rate until they reverse the
order in which these two
phenomena occur, that four
times the quantity must be
even better, and pro rata, at
that.

The first Lord Samuel once
remarked that space was like
"a large, empty box with the
top, bottom, and sides
removed", and I see what he
means. But if that is so, I
think time will have to be de-
scribed as a broad river flowing
for ever at a constant rate but
with all the water drained off.
Your *homo moyer* sensed that
the Clapham omnibus will no
doubt object to being told to
throw away his watch because
in 82 years it will be a minute
fast, and will insist that he can
adjust the thing every half a
measure, indeed it may well
be a rough approximation
will do. But that only goes to
show how far behind the times,
if you see what I mean, the
man on the Clapham omnibus
is.

The times, it has been ap-
parently remarked, what we must
move with. True, the rate at
which we were to do the mov-
ing was not specified in the or-
iginal contract, and it is unlikely
that when it was drawn up any-
body contemplated moving with
the times as fast as an atom of
caesium could vibrate, let alone
faster. But

There was a young lady
called Bright,
Who travelled much faster
than light;
She started one day
In the relative, rapid,
And came back the previous
night.

And it seems that there is
every likelihood that we shall
all shortly find ourselves in a
condition of similar confusion,
and having to ask, before we
make a lunch-engagement or
try to catch a train, whether the
relevant time is being given in
the solar mode or the caesium,
and then trying to remember
the conversion factor. (A
few months ago, as I was land-
ing in Hongkong, the pilot gave
the ground temperature in
degrees centigrade, and trying
to work out what that was in
degrees Fahrenheit, I came to the
alarming conclusion that I was
about to step out into a tem-
perature of 570 Fahrenheit.)

The irony in my own situa-
tion is that when I read the
dire news I had just been
told, "If you want to know the
time for my window-box, but if, as
is presumably the case, all it
will tell is solar time, it is
obviously of no use to me. I
shall have to fall back on the
old maxim, suitably up-dated to
read: "If you want to know the
time, ask a caesium-plated
policeman". Shakespeare had a
word for that problem, too:

Come what come may,
Time and the hour run
through the roughest day.

Times Newspapers Limited, 1981

Ronald Butt

Finding the roots of a new party



Lord George Brown and Mr Douglas Edén: building up a countervailing influence for Labour.

Last Saturday, a constituency
delegate courageously told the
special Labour Conference the
truth to its face. "This is a
deeply corrupt assembly," said
Mr Alec Spurway of Abington.
It was the "final rotten bor-
ough", and he pointed out that
the margin by which last Octo-
ber's conference had passed the
principle of an electoral
college for the making of a
leader was smaller than the
number of union votes in dis-
pute.

Mr Frank Chapple of the
electricians' union spoke on
the same theme: the block
votes were not the votes of
"real people" but represented
the amount of money a trade
union was prepared to put up
to buy votes—some unions even
having more votes than mem-
bers. Mr Sid Weighell of the
railwaymen, an honourable
trade union leader who speaks
the truth, sought to represent the
opinions of his rank and file,
declared that the block vote
was suspect. "I know, because
I've got one in my hand."

Still, Parliament survived the
rotten boroughs of the
eighteenth century, so why
should it not survive the use
of union block votes in the
appointment of a Labour
leader? It survived the Duke
of Newcastle; why should it
not survive Mr Clive Jenkins?
The answer is simple. The
eighteenth century member of
Parliament, despite his patron,
could be capable of great
personal independence. The
younger Pitt entered Parliament
for a rotten borough, but his
personal independence was
never in doubt, since even the
worst of borough-mongers had
regard for Parliament as an
institution whose power their
less corrupt ancestors had
created. It was the only mech-
anism for power that they knew.

But many on the Labour left
have no such preconception.
They have a countervailing
power-based theory which to
legitimate the union block vote
in a different assembly, which
can be used to appoint, remove
or call Labour leaders to
account. They are not sensitive
to the independence of Parlia-
ment. This, of course, is also

the answer to those who ask
why, when socialist parties
abroad elect their leaders by a
wider vote than MPs alone, the
British Labour Party should not
do the same. The reason is that
there is no other socialist party
as dominated by the votes of the
unions, which can be mani-
pulated for wider political ends,
as Labour is.

This being so, the need for a
party of the left with genuine
roots in the wider electorate is
obvious and the result of last
Saturday's Conference is to be
welcomed because it brought
this much nearer. The passing
of the more extreme motion
instead of a "fudging" formula
made it much easier for the
hesitating social democrats to
act as they did—even though
"fudging" might have been
more dangerous to parliamen-
tary independence in the longer
run.

So now the social democrats
are on their own and the final
break seems likely to come in
the next few weeks. Their new
party will then start with the
advantage that it has had its
inception, like the Conservatives
and Liberals, inside Parliament.
But it will need an organization
in the country if it is to draw
to itself the large potential sup-
porter which the opinion polls
suggest exists.

The seeds of such an organi-
zation are already planted by
the Social Democratic Alliance

which yesterday, in a move of
great significance, announced
that Lord George Brown is to
be its President. The importance
of the SDA is that, from the
start it has been a grassroots
operation, and nothing but a
grassroots operation.

When it was first formed in
1975, it deliberately excluded
MPs from its ranks so as to
avoid the accusation that it was
merely an offshoot of the Mani-
festo Group's parliamentary
politics, which could have tied
its hands to Westminster
manoeuvres.

Under the leadership of Mr
Douglas Edén, Dr Stephen
Haseler, two GLC councillors,
Mr Roger Fox and others (some
of whom later departed when
the SDA became too outspoken),
the new association was in-
tended to mobilize Labour
grassroots anxieties about the
infiltration of the left, and to
take remedial action against
such far-leftist groups as the
Militant Tendency.

At first only Labour Party
members were admitted to the
SDA which, taking a leaf out
of the book of such bodies as

the Militant Tendency, had no
"members", but only "sup-
porters". In this way, the SDA
began to build up a counter-
vailing influence, and in conse-
quence, after about two years,
its supporters started to be
expelled when they took action
locally which exposed the activi-
ties of the far left.

Thus Mr Cyril Nottingham,
leader of the majority Labour
group on the Scunthorpe
borough council, was expelled
for providing the information
which was largely the basis of
the report by Lord Underhill,
then Labour's national agent,
on the infiltration of the Mani-
festo Tendency. This expulsion
was overturned by a regional
appeals tribunal, but signifi-
cantly, Labour's National
Executive Committee reversed
that decision and Mr Notting-
ham was thrown out.

By 1979, so many had been
ejected that the SDA decided
that to keep and recruit the
people it wanted, it must
call public attention to anti-
democratic activities inside the
Labour Party and to the wil-
lingness of too many in official
positions to cover this up or to
have associations with bodies
antipathetic to parliamentary
democracy.

Meanwhile, the lessons
preached by the SDA had been

taken to heart inside the pa-
liamentary party, which set up
its own rival grass-roots or-
ganisation, the Campaign for
Labour Victory—largely unop-
posed from Westminster.
The SDA, however, remained an
exclusively grass-roots organi-
zation though its members had
personal contacts with social
democratic MPs, which were
today of growing relevance.

Then, in January 1980 the
decision was taken to compile
a reserve list of candidates
which, in certain circumstances,
the SDA would field if the
next general election against
Labour extremists. A new state-
ment of aims established clearly
that the SDA envisaged its
natural constituency in the
country was that of the old
Labour party, and not some
vague Lib-Lab centre ground.

This, indeed, is the signifi-
cance of the announcement of
Lord George Brown's presi-
dency at this moment, for
though he is now outside the
Labour Party his roots have al-
ways been in the old Labour
tradition. His presidency em-
phasizes that the SDA
envisages social democracy
having more of a popular basis
than might be ascribed from
the social democracy of the
Roy Jenkins variety, important
though this is to be.

The SDA now has a reserve
list of 38 candidates already in
the field, who would be in addi-

tion to the existing social
democratic MPs. They include
Mr Roy Morris, a long-stan-
ding Bristol City councillor who
will oppose Mr Anthony Wedg-
wood Benn, and also Mr Jim
Idy and Mr Michael Golder,
all former members of the
steering committee of the Cam-
paign for Labour Victory. The
SDA claims a national member-
ship of about 2,000, which is
strongest in the cities where
labour is dominated by the
left, particularly in London,
the Midlands, and the North-
west. It is weaker in the North-
east, precisely because it is
there that social democratic
and moderate MPs are
strongest.

The SDA has no paid organi-
zation or offices; the work is
done from members' homes.
They say they have no money
except the contributions of
their supporters—some of
whom are small businessmen
with Labour roots. But volun-
tary work can achieve a great
deal where there is will and
single-mindedness, and nobody
can accuse the SDA of lacking
either. It now has about 25
regional secretaries and a
viable organization of a skele-
tal sort which will obviously be
of great importance to a break-
away social democratic Labour
Party.

But the greater significance
of the SDA is perhaps its
insistence on its grassroots
origin and the continuity it
provides with the cultural tra-
dition of the old patriotic
Labour Party. (It is one of the
more bizarre features of last
Saturday's conference that four
of the huge block of votes cast
by Mr Moss Evans for the
Transport Workers last Satur-
day were Lord George Brown's,
and Messrs Haseler's, Edén's
and Roger Fox's.)

Above all, if what is wrong
is the erosion of Labour's
popular base by unrepre-
sentative activists, the restoration
of that base for the benefit of
effectively "disenfranchised"
Labour social democratic voters
must be the cure. As much as
it looks as though such as
Messrs Rodgers, Owen and Co
are going to need the SDA who
have already had six years'
experience in laying founda-
tions for a new party.

Rushing out the Owen manifesto



Dr David Owen: positive policies.

So far the Council for Social
Democracy, like some of the
political groupings of the
eighteenth century, has been
stronger on men than on
measures. Indeed, it may well
be its lack of dogma and
ideology which account for its
apparent popularity with the
public as evidenced in yester-
day's poll in the Sun.

Today, however, a solidly in-
tellectual element is added to
the social democratic array in
the form of a 550-page book
by Dr David Owen, one of the
original "Gang of Four".
Finished at Christmas, it has
been rushed out by the pub-
lishers following the events of
the last few days and will in-
evitably be taken as a manifesto
of the new Council.

In his central argument, Dr
Owen repeats a theme already
clearly articulated by other
social democrats, most notably
Professor David Marquand and
Mr Evan Luard. The Labour
Party, he writes, is too domi-
nated by notions of corporatism
and centralism and too much
under trade union influence. It
is time to reassert the decentral-
ized, libertarian tradition of
William Morris and Guild
Socialism and reject the
paternalism of the Webbs.

That much is familiar ground.
Where Dr Owen goes further
than most other disillusioned
Labour social democrats, how-
ever, is in asserting positive
policies and strategies rather
than just bemoaning past and
present failures. His book con-
tains detailed and often dense
analyses of what should be done
in just about every area of
public policy.

The section on foreign policy
is clearest and perhaps most
predictable, affirming as it does
a positive commitment to the
EEC, Nato and negotiating from
a position of strength for multi-
lateral nuclear disarmament
rather than subsiding to the
temptation of unilateralism.
It is infused by a strong com-
mitment to internationalism
which Dr Owen sees the Labour
Party having sacrificed to nar-
row nationalism.

In a long section on repre-
sentative democracy, Dr Owen
argues in favour of devolution,
with assemblies in Scotland,
Wales and England along the

lines of those recommended in
the minority report of the Kil-
brandon Commission. He calls
for an elected second chamber,
to include United Kingdom
members of the European
Assembly, a decentralised
health service with elected local
health authorities having the
power to raise revenue, and a
system of local income tax to
revivify local government
and reverse what he calls "the
stultifying embrace" of White-
hall.

Rather more controversially,
he also calls for a reduction
in the power of the Civil Ser-
vice by ministers being able to
recruit personal staff. He in-
tends to put forward a new
French cabinet system. He puts
considerable faith in the ben-
efits which both a Freedom of
Information Act and a more
rigorous system of parliamen-
tary scrutiny of government
departments would have on
administration.

Committing himself firmly to
supporting the continuation of
the mixed economy, Dr Owen
argues that the crucial area for

government action is in setting
the most beneficial economic
climate for industry. Deplo-
ring the "see-saw" effect of violent
changes in policy by successive
Labour and Conservative gov-
ernments, he rejects both doc-
trinaire laissez-faire monetarism
and total state socialism and
wholesale nationalization.

Commending the develop-
ment of the British computer
and pharmaceutical industries
as examples of how the state
can mix formal and informal
involvement, controls and
ownership, he writes: "What
government must learn is to
judge when to intervene and
when not to intervene, on the
basis of a disciplined, scientific
and thoughtful approach, not
on the basis of dogma, doctrine
or prejudice."

A similar desire to avoid the
narrow dogmatism of both left
and right informs Dr Owen's
writing on the all-important
question of economic policy. As
a result, this is perhaps the
least clear part of the book

and the one which offers fewest
practical suggestions for new
policies.

He starts from the premise
that the central aim of any gov-
ernment should be the pursuit
of equality. In taking that line
he puts himself firmly in the
socialist tradition, just as Mrs
Shirley Williams has in her
frequent reiterations of the
same point, and eschews the
traditional Liberal position. He
goes on to reject both the low
growth strategy and the intro-
duction of a tax credit scheme
that have commended them-
selves to many Liberals.

Dr Owen is in no doubt that
an incomes policy is an essen-
tial element in curing Britain's
economic malaise. He suggests
that "a decentralised policy
that relies on a mixture of mar-
ket forces, controls and com-
parability should be able to be
maintained by successive gov-
ernments of whatever party".
In company with most Liberals,
some other social democrats
and not a few "right wing"
 Tories, he also advocates the
development of co-operatives
and worker ownership in indus-
try and would like to see the
British economy develop largely
along these lines, without being
very specific about exactly how
this can be achieved.

There are certain inconsisten-
cies in Dr Owen's book. He
exempts the economic and
social policies of the German
Social Democratic Party, which
he lauds, are in many ways
highly corporatist. No doubt
other members and supporters
of the Council for Social Demo-
cracy will want to modify or
amplify some of his assertions.

As an initial statement of
philosophical intent for the new
council, and for any new party
that arises from it, however, this
book is admirable. It should
play a major part in helping to
establish a distinctive social
democratic position in British
politics against which both the
friends and enemies of the
"Gang of Four" can test their
own ideas.

Ian Bradley

"Face the Future" by David
Owen, Jonathan Cape, £12.50.
Book reviews, page 18

New words and new meanings

There is a new crunch coming

Politics, like journalism, is a
gyesser of hot air and new
slang. Politics, like journalism,
needs to be in the attention of
its audience or readers from
wonderful eruptions of
vivid new language.

"Crunch point", although
still very popular in political
speeches by unoriginal hacks,
is so middle-aged that it slips
off its lips without causing a
ripple in the minds of its users
or listeners. It was an extension
in the Seventies of the idiom
of something or somebody
coming to the crunch (a dis-
tasteful motoring metaphor?).
A/d some anti-Marketsters
even suspect that when it
came to the crunch, Mr Wil-
son himself will campaign for
staying in the Market. The
Sun, 1974.

The crunch idiom is quite
old. Winston Churchill, was
using it just before the war:
"Whether Spain will be
blown to find its way back to
sanity and health depends
upon the general adjustment
or outcome of the European
crunch."

For politicians who want a
more cliché, the phrase of the
moment seems to be "the
main thrust". As with all new
political slang it is being
adopted eagerly all over the
world. I came across an ugly
example from Australia the
other day: "The main thrust
of the Senator's visit to the
Pacific Island was to inform
himself of its readiness for
independence".

Mrs Thatcher and her
Cabinet, and even Professors of

Political Theory, have fallen
into the magical thrall of "the
main thrust". Whatever did
we say before we discovered
the dynamism of this phrase,
with its overtones of vigour
and purpose and action, often
camouflaging (eg in "the main
thrust of our policy") the
absence of any clear purpose
or movement in any direction?
Gist? Brunt? Purpose?

"Main thrust" rules for the
present as the trendy political
phrase. Must it "intrude"
everywhere (compare Muriel
Spark and Miss Brodie on edu-
cation versus intrusion)? The
normal pattern to be expected
is that the epidemic will
its course and die down as
soon as somebody discovers a
prettier new phrase, which we
shall all at once take up and
do to death.

To have egg or jam on or all
over one's face sounds to me
as stale as a four-week egg in
political and journalistic
usage. As dated as the break-
fast egg that Crossbencher in
the *Sunday Express* imagines
his victims tapping, before
launching into a piece of
extravagant speculation about
them. The English breakfast
has moved on since the phrase
was in the Thirties.

"Keep 'levantine' coming in to fash-
ion as a trendy new political
metaphor. Item, *The Observer*
last month: "In sharp con-
trast with what happens at
Conservative Conference,
Labour's agenda is a mixture
of emotions, amend-
ments and composites, fiercely
argued over by a bewildering
assortment of individuals, with
Front Bench figures given
brief and often discouraging
hearings." Perhaps the writer
meant by *Levantine* something
like "representing a colourful
medley of interests." I think it
more likely that he meant poor
old Byzantine, and that his
inner ear skidded on the slip-
pery surface of the cliché.

Philip Howard

LONDON DIARY

Bringing Labour in from the shadows

Whisper who dares, but the
arrival of Tony Benn in the
shadow cabinet—albeit by the
back door left open by the
hurriedly departing William
Rodgers—is almost certain to
be good news for those who
believe in open government, or
at least shadow government.

Benn has long protested
that the minutes of shadow
cabinet meetings have never
been circulated, not even
among shadow ministers. His
campaign will doubtless con-
tinue at the shadow cabinet
table, at which he took his seat
last night. While Michael Foot,
the party leader, has yet to
give him a job, I look forward
with my squad of trusty moles
to being the first recipient of a
copy of the minutes falling off
the back of the duplicating
machine.

As for the job he will be
given, a shiver is running down
the spines of some shadow
ministers at the thought that

he could be offered the same
front bench role as that put
before William Rodgers, in
charge of regional affairs. That
would give Benn the chance to
speak on a particularly wide
range of policies, covering
economics, industry, employ-
ment and almost anything else
you care to name in the Labour
manifesto.

Last night's prediction from
Westminster, however, was that
that would not be the case.
There was also a feeling of
rather less than universally
rapturous welcome, despite his
acknowledged role in the
national executive committee
yesterday over his demand for
that amounted to an oath of
allegiance from the party's
rebellious right-wingers.

I distinctly heard one shadow
minister remark: "Tony ought
to be made to swear an oath of
allegiance to the shadow cabi-
net."

Changing beds

I note with some sense of irony
that Lord Wigoder, QC, the
Liberal peer who for three
years was chairman of the now-
defunct Health Services Board,
has just been elected a governor

of Bupa, the largest of the
private health insurance asso-
ciations.
Lord Wigoder's job at the
Health Services Board was to
preside over the phasing out of
National Health Service pay-
beds under the last Labour
government's legislation, and to
apply the controls on private
hospital development which that
legislation laid down. The board
took the decisions on which pay-
beds should go out of the hands
of the Secretary of State.
Now he will be at Bupa, which
has seen a near 50 per cent
increase in subscriptions in the
past two years and is busy
building private hospitals to
meet the demand.

Flying a Kite

British Airways Helicopters, an
affiliated of our troubled
national airline, has taken the
first firm steps towards its goal
of building a major heliport
deep in the London dockland.
An application has been lodged
with Tower Hamlets council for
outline planning permission to
develop a 52-acre site in the
West India Dock.

managing director of BA Helicop-
ters, has been nurturing for
years the vision of a helicopter
network, based only three miles
east of the City, linking London
with Paris, Brussels and other
major centres within a 250-mile
radius. The present heliport
at Battersea is much too small
to accommodate such grand
plans.

The entire scheme rests on
the development of a new
generation of large helicopters
with at least 68 seats. But such
a machine is unlikely to be
available before 1984, and even
if full planning permission were
granted the dockland heliport
would not be built before then.
"This is a long-term plan. We
have lodged our application to
get agreement in principle and
to open up discussion", the
company told me yesterday.

The site, on a redundant dock
which is to be filled in, heliport
or no heliport, has distinct
advantages apart from its prox-
imity to a large potential busi-
ness traffic: there is plenty of
room for car parks and the like,
and there are few dwellings
nearby. But there are certain
to be objections on the grounds
of noise, nuisance and safety



from those who live under the
potential flight paths.
Cameron and his supporters
claim that such a service could
halve the journey time between

the Stock Exchange and the
Bourse, avoiding the trail-out
to Heathrow and the trek in
from Charles de Gaulle airport.
But as it is the price of fuel
which rules the airways above
all other considerations, and as
it takes many more gallons to
move a man in a helicopter than
in a conventional aircraft, the
entire scheme will have diffi-
culty, to say the least, in
achieving vertical take-off.

Eden revisited

Robert Rhodes James, who
was a junior clerk in the
House of Commons at the time
of Suez and is now Tory MP
for Cambridge, is to write a
biography of Anthony Eden.
James, whose previous works
include biographies of Lords
Rothery and Randolph
Churchill, was invited to
chronicle the life of Eden by
the former Prime Minister's
widow, Lady Avon.

"I actually did go through
the furnace with Eden during
Suez", James said yesterday.



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ISLAM'S NEGATIVE SUMMIT

The Islamic leaders assembled in Taif in Saudi Arabia have shown again that whenever an opportunity for progress toward a peace settlement opens up in the Middle East, the Islamic nations are prone to bungle it, preferably in grand style. In what is to be known as the "Mecca Declaration", the Islamic leaders have called for a new jihad, or holy war, against Israel: urged Islamic countries to join the existing Arab League economic boycott of Israel; pledged more aid to the Palestine Liberation Organisation; and undertaken to liberate Jerusalem from Israeli control. "Jihad" is nowadays defined by Arab leaders as a general campaign or struggle, including—as the declaration says—"all the means" at the Islamic world's disposal.

An economic boycott of the kind apparently envisaged by the Taif Summit could have damaging effects. While the Arab League boycott has not so far been very effective, if the Saudis and other powerful Islamic states were really to broaden the boycott and give it extra muscle—for example by blacklisting Western firms who deal with Israel—their sanctions could have some impact.

The Saudis, indeed, appear to have taken the lead in adopting a hard line against Israel. It was last August that Crown Prince Fahd first called for a jihad, on the grounds that "moderation" had brought the Arab world no benefits, and that peace with

Israel was a "figment of the imagination". Last week he said it again, dismissing Camp David as an "illusion", and calling on the new Reagan Administration in the United States to abandon the Camp David framework.

There is undoubtedly a case for critically examining and subsequently modifying Camp David. Indeed, it has been and is being critically examined by the parties involved, not least by the new administration in Washington, which like the Israelis and Egyptians—disturbed by the lack of progress over Palestinian autonomy. Yet it is precisely this re-examination at a critical moment in Middle East history which makes the timing of the Taif statement so inept.

Not only is there a new American Administration which is still working out its approach to the Middle East, there could also well be a change of government in Jerusalem by the summer. The Israeli Labour Party—which seems likely to win the general election—promises to be much more flexible and open-minded on the Palestinian question than the Begin Government has been. The Labour Party leader, Mr Shimon Peres, has repeatedly held out the prospect of an arrangement with Jordan over the West Bank, leading ultimately to an Israeli withdrawal and the establishment of a Palestinian authority. The European powers, in the meantime, are pursuing the idea of involving the PLO in peace talks, a process which may well be taken further in the summer, when a European-Arab meeting

including the PLO is due to be held at Foreign Minister level.

It may be that the Islamic nations have assumed the Reagan Administration to be pro-Israeli, and have given it up as a lost cause. Yet the latest signs, if anything, point in quite the other direction. Only this week a State Department spokesman condemned the continued building of Jewish settlements on the West Bank as "unhelpful". If the Islamic nations had tried to capitalize on this tendency in Washington, they might have assisted the emergence of an even-handed American policy under Mr Reagan. As it is, the hardline attitude they have adopted at Taif is almost calculated to reinforce American suspicions about alleged Islamic intransigence and irrationality.

Similarly, King Husain of Jordan's categorical rejection at Taif of the Israeli Labour Party's "Jordanian option" makes plain what would have been better left ambiguous, or at no obvious gain to Jordan itself. As Mr Peres pointed out during his visit to London last week, statements on the West Bank by King Husain "should not always be taken at face value". The hardline rhetoric of Taif will not necessarily be translated into headline action. None the less the moderate Islamic states—including both Jordan and the host country, Saudi Arabia—have quite unnecessarily made it much more difficult for themselves to contribute to and take advantage of what could be the most promising year for peace in the Middle East for some time.

ON THE BANKS OF THE RUBICON

Realignment, radical centre, social democracy—whatever the creature now in the womb of British politics is to be called, the period of gestation is proving lengthy and the delivery promises to be painful. The Liberal Party, which has been musing on the event with pleasurable expectation since Mr Grimond's day, is suddenly ill-prepared now that the event is upon it. In a party political broadcast last night Mr David Steel did not know who stood in most need of encouragement, the Labour breakaways or the Liberal separatists. Mr Cyril Smith has put himself at the head of that section of opinion in the Liberal Party which would have their leaders do nothing to facilitate the establishment of a fourth party. There is enough, if Labour refugees are heading for the centre they will find the ground already occupied. Let them become Liberals. Liberals would be surrendering their own interest if they conspired with any new organization with a view to alliance or a systematic electoral pact.

Mr Steel does not see the matter like that in black and white. Doubtless he is as keen as any

other member of the party that he should play the leading role in whatever new political grouping comes into being. But he has a better sense of reality than to expect prominent Labour refugees to take out membership of the Liberal Party there and then. Temporary if not permanent accommodation must be found in a half-way house.

In his broadcast Mr Steel spoke of "an alliance to fight the growing extremes of Right and Left together at the next election." If the Social Democrats' valuable experience of government is added to our nationwide community campaigning experience, I believe we could prove an unstoppable combination at the next general election. But he was careful to add that whether the Liberals can offer such an alliance "is something for my party as a whole to decide". To judge from the evidence of opinion polls Mr Steel's vision of the opportunity now presenting itself is one shared by a large, perhaps major, slice of the electorate. But it cannot be taken for granted his party wholeheartedly, or constituency by constituency, will endorse that view. He cannot at this stage promise Labour MPs

who may be about to take the plunge that they would have official Liberal backing for re-election as social democrats.

And the plunge is in uncomfortably slow motion. Nothing excuses the abusive language reportedly thrown around in yesterday's meeting of the national executive committee. But the position that has now arisen is very peculiar. Mrs Williams helped to write and Mr Bradley has endorsed the Limehouse manifesto. In launching the Council for Social Democracy they stop short of raising the standard of a new party, but unmistakably point themselves in that direction. They do not disguise an intention to set up in opposition to the Labour Party, which they now regard as irredeemable, yet there they sit on their inner council, Mr Rodgers, who has resigned from the shadow cabinet, and Dr Owen, who did not stand for it, were conscious of the incongruity. Yet none of them is actually off and away. They have to move together, and naturally MPs with long-standing local connections need time to make their personal explanation. But this is a very trying time of ambiguity and the shorter they can make it the better.

There are no so-called "trade union barons" in our union; our structure makes this impossible. Our rank-and-file policy conference agreed to make an input into the party's commission in which they advocated the status quo on the Party leadership issue.

The commission judged the issue; thereafter, the party conference, by a water-tight questionable majority, decided to change the system. We accepted this free decision, and again recalled our rank-and-file conference. I am sure that any change should reflect this water-tight decision and, hence, our policy

the party verkramptes, but they know that behind this screen, Mr Botha has increased state control over political expression by everybody else. The black press has been silenced, and the freedom of the white, mainly English-language, press is being progressively circumscribed. Mr Botha's aggrandisement of the executive role and the security apparatus has eroded even the sole voice of the Nationalist-dominated parliament. Whether there has been any liberalization of non-white trade union functions has very much to be proved.

By side-stepping the UN-supervised one-man one-vote election in Namibia Mr Botha has also removed another criticism that his party malcontents might otherwise make. There is little in his actual record at this stage to upset any but the most verkrampt of voters. His vaguely radical talk on the other hand meets a widespread white feeling, especially among young Afrikaners, that there must be some change, if not too soon or too much. He has neatly seized the last moment in which to peddle a dream of painless and riskless change which in another year may be unsalable even to the South African white mentality. Yet even if the election serves only to strengthen Mr Botha's position, it will provide a chance for the progressives in opposition to voice and define a better policy for South Africa than the Botha or Treurnicht alternative. The opposition cannot win, but they should receive as widespread a hearing as possible, with all the help that western free institutions can give.

MR BOTHA SEEKS ENDORSEMENT

The election which Mr P. W. Botha has called for April 29 is meant to settle the struggle for power within the Nationalist party rather than give the South African voters a choice between real alternative policies. The South African parliament does not legally have to end until late next year, and the Nationalist party has an overwhelming majority which will not be significantly (if at all) reduced. Mr Botha is simply engineering a vote of confidence in his own leadership within his party. To the mass of the enfranchised non-white population it will appear a mere ritual of the boss tribe that has scant relevance to their aspirations.

Twenty-two by-elections are pending but the atmosphere at by-elections is different and would certainly permit the airing of divisions within the Nationalist ranks as well as growing criticisms of the prime minister by some of his colleagues and by his predecessor, Mr Vorster. Mr Botha can say that by-elections would not provide an adequate opportunity to bring into the House those members of his cabinet who were given office from outside parliament after the cabinet reshuffle in August. Among them are the ministers of defence, education and commerce. He evidently prefers to bring them into the House in the revivalist fervour of a general election fought to strengthen the government against the "total onslaught" of the outside world.

Discontent has been gaining momentum among the hardline members of the party orchestrated by Dr Andreas Treuer-

nicht who was demoted to minor office in the cabinet reshuffle. He has deepened an alliance with Mr Vorster and Mr Louwrens Muller, a former minister, to oppose Mr Botha's leadership—possibly more on account of a dislike of his personal style than on the visible results of his policies. Mr Vorster seems to hope for a come-back. Ironically, one of the methods chosen to weaken Mr Botha's ascendancy is to seek to involve him with the very scandals of the "Muldergate affairs" which forced Mr Vorster to retire from the presidency in disgrace.

The major aim of Mr Botha's policy is, or was, to associate the coloured and Asian minorities with the whites in a consultative presidential cabinet—with limited scope to advise on further constitutional change—but to grant no comparable recognition to the black community. Twenty-five years ago such a plan to divide the non-white races, and to associate the non-white minorities with the whites in power, might have succeeded. Today the coloured and Asian leaders will not cooperate unless the blacks are offered equal status. Putting the non-white placemen in the new council will deceive nobody. So far the plan (presumably to Dr Treurnicht's satisfaction) has failed. The only question is whether, after a successful election, Mr Botha would defy his right wing and offer the blacks a place in the council.

For the rest, Mr Botha has made great play with the modification of apartheid in practice. The reality is less impressive than the propaganda. It irritates

Case for economy

From Mr Nicholas Scott, MP for Chelsea (Conservative). Sir, In his generally justified zeal in "the hunting of the quango" I fear my colleague Philip Holland may have misled your readers in his letter (January 19).

As chairman of the Conservative Backbench Employment Committee I see a great deal of the work done by the Department of Employment and the Manpower Services Commission which have complementary but distinct roles; both incidentally have played their full part in the

improvement in manning levels to which the Government has set its hand.

The Manpower Services Commission has executive responsibility for the whole fabric of the training and employment services which are of key importance in our economy and they administer most of the special measures which help those affected by unemployment, particularly the much expanded Youth Opportunities Programme.

The Department of Employment, on the other hand, far from having responsibility simply for public relations and the issuing of work permits as Philip Holland suggests,

has a number of extremely important tasks including the system of industrial tribunals, the administration of redundancy payments and other measures such as the Job Release Scheme. It is worth pointing out in particular that of the approximately 22,000 staff of the Department of Employment nearly 10,000 are involved with the considerable task of the administration and payment of unemployment benefits, a burden they seem likely to bear for some time to come.

Yours truly,
NICHOLAS SCOTT,
House of Commons,
January 19.

How the Labour Party makes its decisions

From Lord Paget of Northampton, QC

Sir, There seems to have been some confusion as to recent events at the Labour Party conference.

The Labour Party is a federal body. It has never, if it is to be so inclined, elected a leader and there is nothing odd that it should use its traditional decision-making machinery, that is to say the counting of the black votes of the trade union barons.

Equally clearly the Labour Party has no right to choose leaders for its constituent members. It cannot appoint or elect the secretary general of the TUC or of the great unions or for that matter the chairman or secretary of the humblest ward Labour Party. Still less can it elect the leader of the parliamentary party for this is something which the parliamentary party is required by its rules to do for itself at the beginning of each parliamentary session.

Our constitution is jealous of the independence of its MPs and of an external body to appoint a functionary to direct and control the parliamentary activities of MPs, or to draw the public salary and exercise the rights of a Member of the Opposition, or (worse still) to assume the office of Prime Minister would be grossly unconstitutional and a flagrant breach of parliamentary privilege.

The parliamentary leader will continue to be elected by the parliamentary party in accordance with its rules. It is not necessary that he should be the same person as the party leader. In Germany Herr Brandt is the party leader and Herr Schmidt the parliamentary leader and Chancellor.

When the Queen forms a new government she will not be concerned to find who commands the confidence of the House of Commons. She will summon the parliamentary leader who commands a parliamentary majority. This will leave the party leader free to attend international socialist conferences and to preside over commissions considering the needs of the "Third World" without being distracted by the sordid considerations of government in the day-to-day tasks of governing the country. These will be left to the parliamentary leader who accepts the office of Prime Minister.

I would suggest therefore that the Limehouse pinks or whatever they choose to call themselves should stop panicking and get on with their jobs within the great party to which they owe their careers.

Yours sincerely,
PAGET,
House of Lords.

From the General Secretary of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers

Sir, May I correct Lord Underhill's use of the word "incomprehensible" to describe my union's conduct (January 27)? Trade union democratic procedures are too sacred to be prostituted by any horse-dealing for political expediency.

There are no so-called "trade union barons" in our union; our structure makes this impossible. Our rank-and-file policy conference agreed to make an input into the party's commission in which they advocated the status quo on the Party leadership issue.

The commission judged the issue; thereafter, the party conference, by a water-tight questionable majority, decided to change the system. We accepted this free decision, and again recalled our rank-and-file conference. I am sure that any change should reflect this water-tight decision and, hence, our policy

The Ajanta frescoes

From Mr and Mrs Cyril Iles

Sir, Earlier this month when we visited the world famous rock-cut temples of the Ajanta Caves in India we were dismayed and shocked by the conditions prevailing there. Owing to a failure in the electricity supply we were unable to see the frescoes in the Vihara Cave no 1, whilst the lighting in the other caves was poor. The atmosphere within the caves was polluted and it was obvious that these frescoes were deteriorating rapidly. Crowd control was virtually non-existent and swarms of bored schoolchildren, admitted free, added to the congestion.

Our Indian friends, particularly our guide, agreed that these paintings at Ajanta, which possess for Asia the same significance as Italian frescoes, will perish unless immediate action is taken to ensure their preservation. It has even been suggested that they should be removed to a better climate and improved lighting is installed.

It is surely a matter of international concern that these unique artistic treasures should be saved. Yours sincerely,
CYRIL ILES,
MRS ILES,
Linton Hills,
Widcombe,
Bideford,
North Devon.

Hostages agreement

From Professor R. D. Brittain

Sir, I note that the Reagan Administration has said that it will honour the agreement signed by the Carter Administration as long as it conformed to United States and international law.

It is a principle of United States, international, and national law that agreements extracted under duress are void. There is no reason to honour this agreement. To honour it would help set the precedent that agreements under duress are valid.

The more that can be done to reestablish the rules of international law and diplomacy the better. If it is necessary to abide by the points agreed for reasons of global politics, then let that be said, but it is required by neither law nor honour.

Sincerely,
R. D. BRITTAI,
Box 5474,
Bahrain,
Arabian Gulf,
January 23.

Music in education

From Mr K. M. L. Benson

Sir, Thank you for publishing two such excellent letters under the heading "Instrumental in educating the young" as those from Mr and Mrs Driver and the Director of Essex College (January 21).

There is firm evidence that early exposure to music helps a child when he comes to learning how to read; deprivation may delay or even inhibit a child's ability to learn to read. Early reading difficulties account for many subsequent schooling problems and may lead to deviant behaviour and worse.

Music is not an optional extra, a top-dressing: it is basic to any true education, providing, as it does, a means of expression for both reason and emotion. For growth a child must find ways of expression of which language is arguably the most sophisticated. For

became 75 per cent for the Parliamentary Labour Party and only 10 per cent for the trade unions.

Whatever political manoeuvring went on at Wembley, a trade union executive cannot sabotage such an expensive and democratic procedure or decision as ours.

Of course the Wembley decision reached is indefensibly illogical and it will cause irreparable damage to the party's electoral chances. But of course, on now for the election is and the extent to which the present Government can restore economic stability before then; but may I also remind all that if those who voted 50-25-25 per cent had remained loyal to this decision and voted as we did, the final vote (time ago, the 40-30-30 per cent, then the status quo would have prevailed, as indeed is the proper method.

"Where there is no vision the people perisheth," Yours, etc.
JOHN ROYD,
Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers,
110 Peckham Road, SE15,
January 27.

From Councillor Olive Gibbs
Sir, I, as a hard-working member of the Labour Party at constituency level, would have more respect for the so-called principal stand of Mr Shirley Williams against the trade union block vote were it not for the fact that she, herself, owes her seat on the NEC, and always has done, to that very same vote!

Yours faithfully,
OLIVE GIBBS,
Leader of the Labour Group,
County Hall,
Oxford,
January 24.

From Lord Shawcross, QC
Sir, The current controversy within the Labour Party and the moving letters in your columns from Sir Leslie Murphy (January 21) and Mr Michael Pickering (January 27) reveal the circumstances in which I myself, now many years ago, allowed my membership in that party to lapse.

I joined the Labour Party (no doubt for sentimental and humanitarian rather than ideological reasons) when I was 17, and I was proud to be a member of Mr Attlee's Administration, which I think will be regarded by history as having been a good and an honest one. But before that Administration came to its end, and because of the causes which I had and subsequently maintained with trade unions, I had become concerned at the steady and systematic infiltration of Marxists into the constituency parties and into trade unions, where they have succeeded in securing the nomination of a few Marxists to the party, which is exerting an influence quite disproportionate to their numbers, which remain very small.

From time to time I made my view as to this public but found few shared my feelings and I was subjected to the familiar criticism of being "reds under the beds". Now, of course, they are openly well on top of the beds and their aim is to keep the whole mattress to themselves.

I probably should have fought on, but I felt my rather long voice was ineffective. Sadly disillusioned, and although I had been assured of a very high office in any future Labour government, I retired from the Commons, gradually drifting away from the Labour Party altogether. I was included in the second small list of (non-political) life peers. I had intended to take some small part in the work of the House of Lords, from the cross benches, but I had not joined any other party. But my occasional interventions critical of left-wing

indicating, an intention to discriminate on the grounds of race, colour, nationality or ethnic or national origin, is not only unlawful to publish advertisements which indicate an intention to discriminate directly on these grounds, but it is also unlawful to advertise an intention to discriminate indirectly, which the Act defines as involving a requirement or condition which, whether intentionally or not, adversely affects one racial group considerably more than another and cannot be justified on non-racial grounds. The enforcement of the adverse provisions of the Act is the responsibility of the CRE.

"I understand from Amnesty International that the nature of the work was such that anyone with English as their second language would not have the subtlety of language which would enable them to perform the tasks as well as someone who has English as their first language."

I have no desire to labour the point of the "subtlety" of the language. It is blatantly clear from the excerpts quoted above that both Amnesty International and the CRE do not think that anyone whose mother tongue is not English is capable of understanding the "subtlety" of the language. One only wonders what would happen were V. S. Naipaul or Joseph Conrad to apply for the position.

Yours faithfully,
KHALID HASAN,
2 Eastcote Road,
Sich Harrow,
Middlesex.

The letter says: "Under section 29 of the 1976 Race Relations Act, it is unlawful to publish an advertisement which indicates, or might reasonably be understood as

Mr Murdoch's bid for 'The Times'

From Mr Geoffrey Robinson, MP for Coventry, North-West (Labour)

Sir, Disquiet is bound to continue following yesterday's debate in the House of Commons (report, January 28) on the purchase by Rupert Murdoch of *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* newspapers.

The circumstances in which the sale has taken place—the tight deadline set by the Thomson Organisation, the apparently preferential treatment afforded to the Murdoch organisation, the incompatibility between the financial calculations in the Warburg prospectus and the Department of Trade's assessment, the narrow retrospective basis (only 11 months' trading) on which the Department of Trade has judged *The Sunday Times* as not being a going concern and thus avoided a reference to the Monopolies Commission—all of this has created a situation of confusion and suspicion that must be cleared up as much in the interests of the newspapers concerned as for any other reason. Indeed, it was precisely for this reason that *The Sunday Times* courageously recommended a reference. It is equally if not more important that the public be satisfied that its unique position in public life.

The Government will not, of course, reverse its decision. What is required, therefore, is the full disclosure of all financial documents and legal opinions. Only in this way can the public be satisfied that this important transaction has been handled with due propriety and fairness. It is an occasion when proper behaviour must be seen to have been observed and the public assured that the right judgment has been arrived at.

Yours, etc.
GEOFFREY ROBINSON,
House of Commons,
January 28.

From the Editor of The Sun
Sir, Journalists of *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* are apparently in a state of rare excitement over Mr Murdoch's "guarantee" of editorial independence.

At the Sun we find this amusing. For 11 years I have enjoyed press self-censorship, which my colleagues so eagerly sought and so easily won.

For the benefit of those who think otherwise, I should add that *The Sun's* wholehearted support for the Tories in the last general election was not dictated by Mr Murdoch. The policy was decided by a "consortium" of senior journalists, who did not like what was happening in the Labour Party.

"We may have been a little ahead of our time. We were most certainly not intimidated." Yours faithfully,
TERRY LAMB,
The Sun,
30 Boulevard Street, EC4,
January 28.

From the Reverend P. M. Hawkins
Sir, I would have thought that canon 24 gave sufficient power to the Archbishop of Canterbury to authorize such form of service on the occasion of the proposed visit of the Pope to Canterbury, for which no provision is made in the Book of Common Prayer, as may be deemed appropriate.

It is not recommended that the "Mass" previous to the Reformation was "reformed" at the Council of Trent and again at the Second Vatican Council. It is not now so very different from our own Alternative Services.

Finally, it must be understood that the Church of England has traditionally offered the hospitality of its altars to Huguenots in Canterbury Cathedral itself, and to Lutherans, Roman Catholics, Orthodox and Pentecostals in various churches in this diocese to my own knowledge. It seems only right to treat the Pope with the same love that Christ offered to all men.

Yours faithfully,
PETER M. HAWKINS,
The Vicarage,
Lex Top Lane,
Allerton,
Bradford,
West Yorkshire.

Fall from grace

From Mr P. D. Hudson

Sir, It used to be said that a picture was worth a thousand words. Fortunately, your paper has generally preferred the certainty of the written word to the risk of misinterpretation that a casual glance at a photograph usually carries. Surprisingly then that your edition of January 24 should carry a picture spread across four columns, of former President Carter lying sprawled on the ground having apparently tripped while jogging. What lengthy description was this picture intended to replace, or indeed what point was it meant to illustrate?

We were informed in the caption that Mr Carter quickly recovered and resumed his exercise. Would not then a picture of this latter event been better news, or is there something particularly unique about the misfortune of an ex-President, one which all of us must have experienced at some time?

Yours etc.
PAUL D. HUDSON,
2 Lislebourne Road,
Maidstone,
Kent,
January 26.

A case to rest?

From Miss Susan Downes

Sir, As a law student who spends what seems to be a large proportion of an already heavy course learning the law according to Lord Denning, on top of the "law 1, for one, would be quite relieved and glad to wish him a happy retirement."

Yours, etc.
S. M. DOWNES,
Dinam House,
Meadowside Hospital,
Penyfford, Chester,
January 22.

Some fresh ideas for frozen fish

The Times Cook



Shona Crawford Poole

No fish tastes better than the one you hooked yourself, nearly lost, landed triumphantly and cooked in the open air while the sparkling scales were still 10 times brighter than anything you will see on a fishmonger's slab.

Freshness really matters with most fish which is why fish from the freezer is such a boon. Because it is frozen so soon after it is caught it can be, and often is, a much better bet than fresh fish which is not as fresh as it might be.

Good fishmongers, like rural bus services, are thin on the ground and becoming fewer and further between all the time. The pity of this is not that frozen fish is necessarily inferior, but that the variety of types available is so restricted and anything much bigger than a small trout has to be cut to fit a packet. The following recipes make the most of what is in those packets.

Creamed coconut flavours and thickens the deliciously spiced sauce of this delicate fish curry. Blocks of unsweetened creamed coconut are sold by

Asian food shops and by some supermarkets.

White fish curry

Serves 4

1 small onion, finely chopped
1 clove garlic, finely chopped
2.5cm (1in) cube fresh green ginger, finely chopped
2 tablespoons clarified butter or peanut oil

10 whole cardamom pods
680g (1½lbs) haddock or cod, filleted, skinned and cut in big cubes

55g (2oz) creamed coconut, grated
350ml (12 fl oz) boiling fish stock or water

1 tablespoon fresh lemon juice
Salt and freshly ground black pepper

4 tablespoons or more finely chopped coriander leaves or parsley

Using a pestle and mortar or food processor, reduce the onion, garlic and ginger to a smooth paste. Heat the clarified butter or peanut oil in a heavy based fireproof casserole and fry the paste gently for about five minutes. Add the cardamom pods and fry for a moment or two longer. Add the fish and turn it in the hot fat to seal each piece on all sides. Remove the casserole from the heat.

Stir the boiling stock or water into the creamed coconut and stir it until the liquid is smooth. Pour this mixture over the fish, add the lemon juice, and season to taste with salt and freshly ground black pepper. Cover the casserole and cook it in a preheated oven (160°C/325°F, gas mark 3) for 15 minutes, or until the fish is just cooked but not falling apart. Sprinkle with coriander or parsley and serve with plain boiled basmati rice or a golden pilau.

A glossy puff pastry lid signals that celebration fish pie is no ordinary pie, but a delicious mixture of shellfish and white fish in a creamy sauce sharpened with yogurt. (Yogurt batters will not know it is there, only that the fish tastes uncommonly good.) If prawns, crab or scallops are too expensive or not available, improvise with another mixture of fish and shellfish that adds up to about 680g (1½lbs).

Celebration fish pie

Serves 4

55g (2oz) butter
55g (2oz) flour
150ml (½ pint) milk

150ml (½ pint) natural yogurt
150ml (½ pint) fish stock

340g (12oz) cooked cod or haddock, flaked
110g (4oz) cooked prawns or mussels, shelled

110g (4oz) cooked crab or lobster meat
110g (4oz) cooked scallops, sliced

2 tablespoons finely chopped spring onions
Salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste

370g (13oz) frozen puff pastry, thawed

1 egg, beaten

Melt the butter in a fairly large pan and stir in the flour. Cook the roux for a minute or two without allowing it to colour. Gradually add the milk, yogurt and stock, stirring constantly to make a smooth sauce. Cook the sauce on a low heat for a minute or two.

Fold in all the fish, shellfish and chopped spring onions, and season the sauce to taste with salt and freshly ground black pepper. Pour the mixture into a pie dish and set it aside to cool.

Roll out the pastry on a lightly floured surface and cut off a narrow strip long enough to edge the pie dish. Paint the lip of the dish with beaten egg and stick down the strip of pastry. Paint this strip with egg and cover the pie with egg. Make a small hole in the lid to let out the steam and hold it open with a tube of foil. Decorate the crust with pastry trimmings or leave it plain. Brush the top of the lid (not the edges) with egg to glaze, and bake the pie in a preheated hot oven (220°C/425°F, gas mark 7) for 20 minutes, then reduce the heat to moderate (160°C/325°F, gas mark 3) and bake it for a further 25 to 30 minutes.

Prawns in sizzling garlic butter are a winner every time. It is a first course that makes something memorable of those pathetically small cooked and shelled frozen prawns sold in packets everywhere. Serve them in individual ramekins with lots of hot french or granary bread to mop up the butter.

Prawns in garlic butter

Serves 6

450g (1 lb) frozen prawns, thawed
170g (6 oz) butter

1 to 3 cloves garlic, very finely chopped
1 teaspoon tabasco sauce

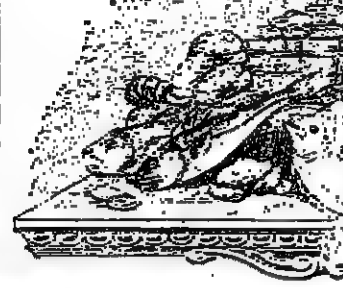
1 tablespoon fresh lemon juice
Salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste

6 tablespoons finely chopped parsley

Last minute assembly and cooking briefly in a hot oven are essential for this dish as over-cooking the prawns makes them tough.

Drain the thawed prawns well and divide them between six ovenproof ramekins. Set the ramekins on a baking tray.

Melt the butter in a small saucepan. Add all the remaining ingredients and bring it to the boil. Pour the garlic butter over the prawns dividing it equally between them. Transfer the prawns immediately to the top of a hot oven (220°C/425°F, gas mark 7) and bake them for 10 minutes, or until the butter is bubbling briskly again. Serve immediately.



Prudence Glynn

Oh, is it art? It must be all right then

Prime Ministers presumably become accustomed to the touch of the red hot iron, but even so it does seem hard for Mrs Thatcher to have been branded as both a toughie and a philistine after her Cabinet reshuffle. The latter accusation stems, it appears, from her denouement of the Arts portfolio, not just to outside the Cabinet and not even to a full minister, but to "a mere Minister of State" as one commentator described him.

I have never seen the slightest reason for the arts to rate any higher representation while design rates none. I would settle for a Minister for Design and Art rolled into one and he can be in the Cabinet or not for all I care. It might provide an opportunity for overdue reshuffling of entrenched departments, but for the time being why not twinned Ministers of State?

It has always struck me as quite extraordinary that in a nation, a large proportion of which is artistically purblind (you only have to look at the suffering on the faces of the audience) we make so much fuss about the arts and we have arts councils and crafts councils all waving money about (our money). Yet in a nation quite extraordinarily gifted at design and innovation and invention the best we can do is the Design Council, which has no financial teeth and ought long ago to have been fitted with dentures.

Please do not misunderstand me. Of course I think the state should use our money to subsidize the finest in opera, ballet and theatre, all areas which involve large people and complicated settings and are besides a great enrichment to national life a source of national pride and a vast invisible currency earner.

But it is when we get to the selection of individuals for subsidy that I begin to fret since it is our money that they are dispensing, the state quite rightly establishes a network of committees of the great and good, with here and there a token maverick or somebody in sandals to inject judgement on the applicants. But what about those who do not apply, or for who for some reason do not impress the panel? What panel ever produced that fundamental gut feeling and confidence and trust that can be arrived at between two individuals?

Which is where design comes in. If you accept the premise that ideally individuals should be fostered by individuals, where do those individuals get the cash? The answer is that they generate it, through increased sales, more competitive processes, clever packaging, a breakthrough invention (at last, striped paint). In other words, via better design.

Having generated that wealth for themselves and their share-

holders both should be able to deduct from tax money spent on the direct promotion of the arts provided it was not their main business. Of course the system would be wide open to abuse and the Inland Revenue would have a high old time trying to work out if a plate of eggs and bacon qualified for a rebate or was in fact merely the remains of breakfast. But even so I am sure it would work out a lot cheaper than all those committees, and also fewer talents would slip through the net. Even in this age of interior taste, engendered by patronage at one mostly to private people and friends and once had a show in an art gallery which was a great success "because people thought it was art", he laughs ruefully "so they could understand it, label it with confidence. You see what I mean about crisis in personal taste."

James Rook is by training and craft a jeweller, and a very fine one, too, original, precise, amusing and understanding that most important modern need, which is to create impressive pieces which rely for their impression on design content, not just intrinsic gem value. With everyone so nervous of being robbed he thinks this is essential "though I do wish more people would appreciate it," he says. "You just buy investment jewelry and stick it in the bank."

Thea Cabarra is an immensely practical girl for all her fuchsia wigs which do not startle Whitechapel at all, I might add. She makes shoes which are really art forms in themselves—remember her palm-tree with the silver heel?—and she finances the everyday needs of life by commissions from enlightened firms such as Clarks who have recognized that high flights of fancy are necessary to a spirit if it is to revitalize a prosaic range. Otherwise everyone just says, "Oh, I've seen that one before."

Even if only a grain of the palm tree or the tiger magic rubs off onto the broader fitting section, it shows. Of the three I have described Thea would seem the easiest to slot in, and indeed she has been helped by the Crafts Council, but her most imaginative and rewarding work has been for private patrons.

If only there were more one would not have this ludicrous situation where in one South London borough they are taking on a writer in residence and hiring a nice young artist to paint the ends of their houses while the ratepayers are baying at an increase in their rates. And I am sure that the good citizens of Lowestoft would have been quite happy with their drunken sailor statue if it had not been chosen by a committee and paid for with their money.

Children's books Chronicle a revolution

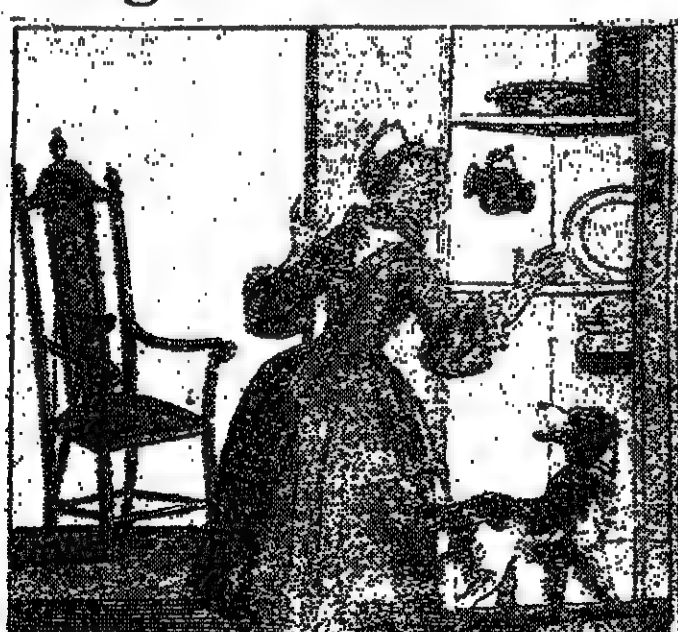
Since reading began adults have tended to nurture a lasting affection for the books of their childhood, whether *Fortunatus and his Wishing-cap* or *The School at Chelton*. About a hundred years ago, however, a different kind of affection arrived—the cherishing of children's books for their naive charm, their breath of *temps perdu*.

One of the first to exploit this new sensibility was a publisher Charles Welsh, who, in 1881, introduced a facsimile of the 1766 edition of *Little Goody Two-shoes*, a venture which he was later to follow up with some related bibliographical endeavours. A fellow enthusiast was Andrew Tuer, whose Leademhall Press put out numerous "odde volumes" including his own rag-bags of *Pages and Pictures from Forgotten Children's Books* (1898-1899) and *Stories from Old-fashioned Children's Books* (1899-1900), and since that time the trade in reproducing "quaintly illustrated little treasures" has continued. Recently there have been such Tuer-ish compendia as Leonard de Vries's *Flowers of Delight* (1965), which drew upon the holdings of the Osborne Collection in Toronto, and Nigel Temple's *Seen and Not Heard* (1970), sub-titled "a Garland of Fancies for Victorian Children".

Recently, well-groomed for best-sellerdom by the Oxford University Press, there came the latest and most august volume in this tradition: *A Nursery Companion* "provided by Iona and Peter Opie" (£8.95). Like its forebears it anthologizes both the text and the pictures of a number of antique children's books, but unlike them it has a narrower focus and offers a modest thesis about its wares.

The subject of *A Nursery Companion* is the vogue for light-hearted, pretty colour-books that followed the immense success of *The Comic Adventures of Her Dog*, which John Harris published in 1805. It contains 27 rare and delectable examples (all drawn from Mr and Mrs Opie's own collection) which show the variety of ways in which publishers exploited the new fashion. And in its engaging Introduction and Notes it puts forward a view that this wholly unexpected ebullience in a genre which had previously been noted for its grey didacticism was as much on behalf of adults as it was of children.

Old Mother Hubbard re-



The Comic Adventures of Old Mother Hubbard and her Dog. Illustration from *A Nursery Companion* by Iona and Peter Opie. Oxford University Press.

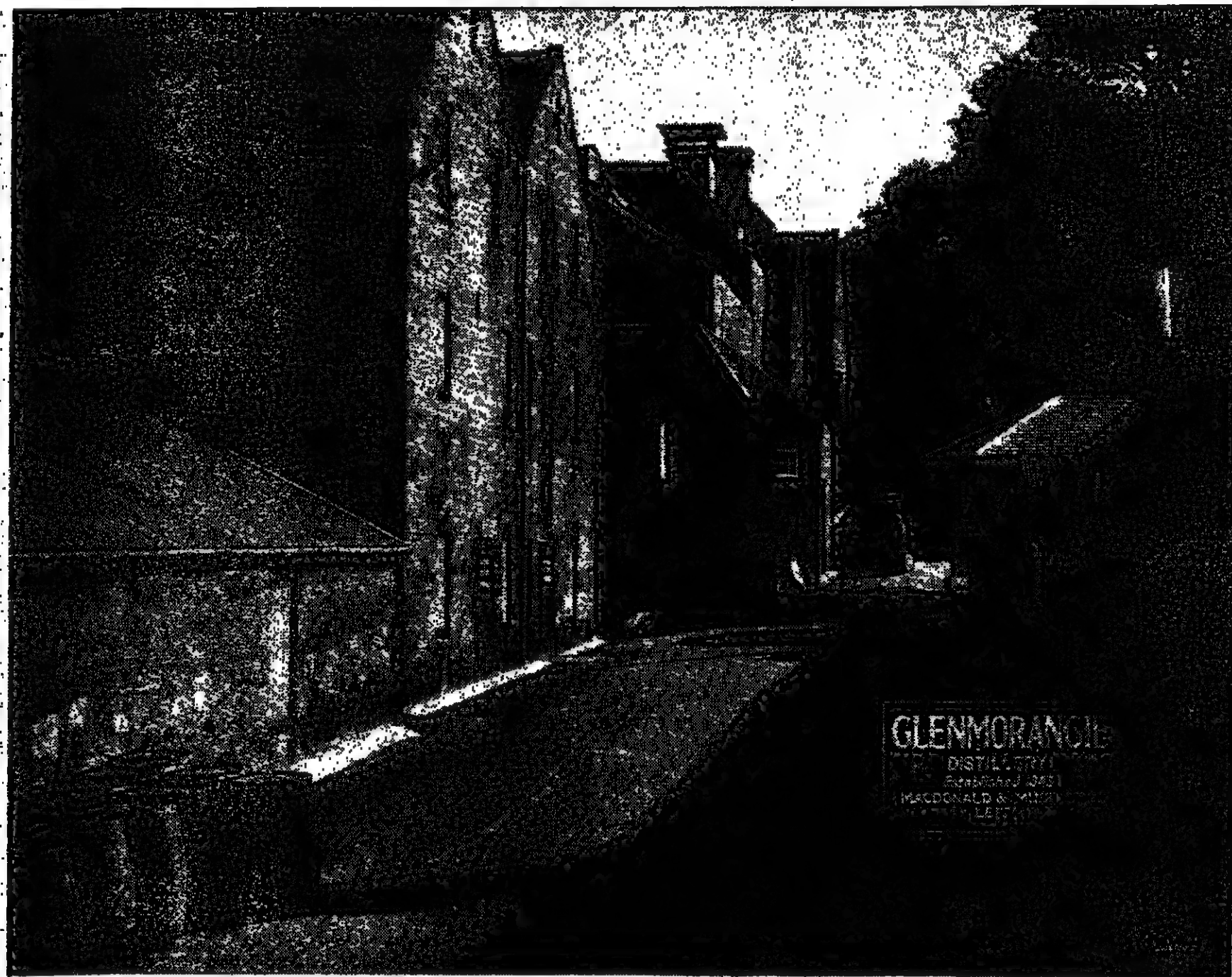
vealed a potential for play in children's books, and for 30 odd years they came to be used not just as a vehicle for nursery rhymes like *A Apple Pie or The House that Jack Built*, elegant copies of which are reproduced here, but for a number of experiments in which adults enjoyed themselves in a new vein. Thus you find not only simple entertainments but also educational ones (*Punctuation Personified*, satirical ones (*The Dandies' Row*—actually written by Caroline Sheridan "aged 11 years") and straight parlour games (if any game can be called straight with a name like *Adalbertophosphor-phoriotikos*), which, as the Opies point out, has one letter more than the longest word in the Oxford English Dictionary.

The double audience that enjoyed these books when they were first published will probably be the chief clientele for *A Nursery Companion*—its success being most likely to have estimate in those homes where nurseries still exist somewhat above the drawing-room. Apart from the traditional rhymes, many of the verses are formal and stilted (even the limericks—the first of their kind—lack zest) and their elegant, coloured illustrations demand an attention that is sober rather than rumbustious. How far, too, does the reader need a sense of parody to enjoy what the book is doing

—its illumination of a small corner of "old-time" elegance, its chronicle of a notable revolution in the history of children's literature. But for enthusiasts knowledgeable in these matters the presentation of the material may come as something of a disappointment, in a way that, at their lesser level, Tuer and de Vries were disappointing. Its large format has been designed to accommodate half a dozen or more pages of its component children's books on a single page opening (in case getting a really good sequence the wrong way round), and the result is that half the charm of these small, individually conceived volumes has disappeared. (You can get a rough idea of what the worst is like by looking at a number of individual facsimiles available from the Scolar Press.)

At the same time, for all the care that they have taken over the Companion's production, our modern technologists just cannot cope with the delicacy of engraved copper-plates, printed one at a time and coloured by hand. Mr and Mrs Opie's book has a colourful charm of its own, true, but its matt-white pages with their lack of texture and their smooth printing are no equal to the choice rinks of John Harris's *Cabinet of Amusement and Instruction* and the like.

Brian Alderson



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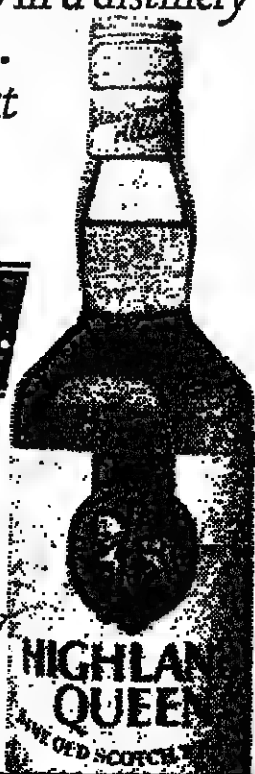
Virtually unrivalled for taste. And, hardly surprisingly, in somewhat limited supply.

Since 1894, however, the subtle pleasures of Glenmorangie have been available on a more generous scale.

It is to be found in a blended whisky called Highland Queen.

Produced very slowly, using time-honoured, not to say old-fashioned methods, Highland Queen contains a very high proportion of malt whisky.

It is, in short, to ordinary blends what Glenmorangie is to ordinary single malts.



New Books

Law and Constitution

The Rule of Law

Albert Venn Dicey; Victorian Jurist

By Richard

A. Cosgrove

(Macmillan, £15)

Dicey's "intellectual reputation stood highest in his own lifetime but has now declined sharply"; "his major works have not stood the test of time well"; he "imbibed the conventional beliefs of the mid-Victorian generation, unquestioningly" and displayed an "enduring fidelity to that code throughout his life". Professor Cosgrove's introduction is no blurb; there is no overstatement. He borrows something from Dicey's own habit of self-disparagement: "I do not believe that I have ever got hold of a strictly original thought in my life, even in the form of a new error", he wrote to Bryce towards the end of his life; to Strachey he confided that his special vocation was "one of repeating to dull men the truths they refuse to notice".

Nevertheless A. V. Dicey, author of *Conflict of Laws* and *Law of the Constitution*, the most distinguished occupant of the Victorian chair had had since Blackstone, constitutional authority and crusty conservatism, deserves what he has now been given, a first critical biography. His exposition of the principles of the British constitution was immensely influential and has by no means entirely ceased to be so. He also exemplified the high seriousness and sense of public obligation that animated the products of Jowett's Oxford and still compel an intimidated admiration.

He said that his way of looking at life and the matters which had interested him were determined by his having been "brought up at home by very good and intelligent parents who were earnest Whigs and sincere though not violent Evangelicals". His father owned by inheritance the *Northampton Mercury*, a profitable newspaper which he conducted in the Whig interest.

His mother was a daughter of James Stephen of the Clapham Sect. Dicey early conceived ambitions in politics or on the bench. It was because he achieved neither that even his high distinction as an academic lawyer and constitutional pundit never entirely rid him of a sense of disappointment.

Walter Bagehot had analysed the constitution in terms of politics. Dicey analysed it in terms of law. These two works formed Englishmen's conception of their constitution. Dicey's three principles on which the frame rested: the sovereignty of Parliament, the rule of law, and the validity of convention. Professor Cosgrove usefully expounds the Dicey doctrine and takes a quick canter round the critical writings it has generated.

After looking at his other major books, a similar disengagement turns to, and accounts at tedious length, Dicey's political obsession with the threat to the Union posed by Irish Home Rule. He justifies this by reference to the time and energy which Dicey himself expended on it. But a biographer may assert his own priorities.

Dicey had formed his opinions about Irish Home Rule by 1885. They remained, of growing intensity and impervious to events, to the year of his death in 1922. For Professor Cosgrove Dicey's Unionism is the chief, though not the only, example of an incorrigible conservatism in public affairs, which came about because he did not change or adapt his values in a changing world. An outlook that was liberal, even progressive, when first adopted came to be reactionary in due course. History certainly engulfed most of Dicey's political opinions, yet it has not comprehensively extinguished them. Some of the echoes into the present are the following examples show.

Dicey's central objection to Home Rule was that it would weaken the state and introduce divided sovereignty, a flawed system unsuited and unwanted in most of the kingdom. Best the Union; but better the Irish Republic than Home Rule. In the recent palaver over Scottish devolution the sound-

est objections to the legislation sprang from that line of thought. There are limits to the constitutional inconveniences majorities should be required to put up in order to accommodate regional preferences.

"The Trade Disputes Act of 1906 earned his disapproval as being prejudicial to the rule of law. Of the freedom of liability in tort which it conferred on trade unions he wrote: 'conceded the fact as you may, this Act is intended to give and does give unjust privilege to trade unions... Privilege whether it be given to a king or a trade union, is simply a decent name for despotism'."

That opinion is alive and kicking. He was active in the procurement of social and civil rights for women, as was his wife, Ellenor Bonham-Carter. But he drew the line at votes. The basis of government was force, ultimately physical strength; men exercised a monopoly of physical force, ergo there was no place for women in politics. Not much sale for that argument these days, but it is nice to have it back on the shelves.

This book is concerned with the public Dicey. It has little to say about his private life, and it does not acquaint one with what he may have been like to know. There are a few clues. During his wedding ceremony "he passed the time by pondering the legal question at what precise moment the contract becomes binding"—not, one supposes, because of any thought of gambling. And when he was 82, "having through life as he said 'sedulously fought shy of verses and poets', he wrote a book on *The Statesmanship of Wordsworth* (1917) as a contribution to debate on the nation's war aims.

The University of North Carolina Press deserves thanks for still having the capacity to put footnotes where they belong, but not for letting through Macaulay, beknighted, and "the Boer war had produced a feeling of unanimity rare in England".

T. J. O. Hickey

Sharp but friendly

Memories

By Frances Partridge

(Collins, £9.95)

While others wrote of the Bloomsbury world they inhabited even while they were still living in it, Frances Partridge has waited 50 years before producing her *Memories*. Based on letters and diaries, and told with the same fluency, the same sharp but friendly tongue as in *A Pacifist's War*, her account of being a conscientious objector in the Second World War, *Memories* gives in her own words, the "personal side" of Bloomsbury, the chronicle of everyday events: what it looked and sounded and felt like.

Frances Partridge was born to Bloomsbury. By birth she entered a circle of Eys and Strachey's going to work for the bookshop run by David Garnett and Francis Birrell, she met and became friends with its most central members—Virginia and Leonard Woolf, Duncan Grant, Maynard Keynes. By falling in love with Ralph Partridge, a friend of Lytton Strachey, she became a fourth to the famous ménage à trois of Ham Spray. She was there, at the parties, with their "continuous passionate dancing", at the dinners and lunches and weekends, where the talk was good and friendships and relationships began and ended. It was the detail that appealed to her, that she recorded then or remembers now; the fact that Carrington moved like a little girl, standing with "head hanging and toes turned"; that Virginia Woolf was good at making jam and bread; that Clive Bell

took her to dinner dressed "in purple spooze-cloth with black frogs".

Before deciding to write about the ghastly winter of 1931-32 "the catastrophe" is an event much described by the writers of Bloomsbury: Lytton Strachey's death, and the desperate and desperate attempts on the part of all who knew her to prevent Carrington from killing herself.

But *Memories* is not just observation. As a girl, Frances Partridge was sent to board at Bedales. Shortly before leaving school, she had an almost mystical experience, a flash of understanding that:

My ideas and beliefs were my own and would change as I grew. I might be forced to go and do things I hated doing, no one and nothing could make me think against my own grain, or direct my beliefs from their chosen channel.

At the end of the book, she comes back to this: that unlike love of family which is "genetic and static" friendship is exciting in that it involves choice. Frances Partridge emerges a wholly sympathetic figure, who loved the dancing and valued the friends "serious but not solemn" in the words she uses to describe the Bloomsbury cast. But this note of independence, of strength derived from curiosity and a kind of confidence about how to live and behave, marks *Memories*. In the end, it is a book about friendship, among people who really cared about friends, about its rules and limits and the determining power of its influence.

Caroline Moorehead

Quick guide

Anyone Here Been Raped and Speaks English? by Edward Behr (Hamish Hamilton, £7.95).

This is a lightweight, gossipy little book—although, at 316 pages, it goes on rather longer than such a little book should—in which Mr Behr, an English-born journalist and author, works through his theory that "even the most trivial, nonsensical anecdote can be made to illustrate a general truth and sometimes more aptly reveals an 'ambience', a climate, than any careful marshalling of facts".

As foreign correspondent for Time-Life and Newsweek, among others, Mr Behr certainly had the opportunity to collect more than his share of such anecdotes, mainly in theatres of war throughout the Far East and Africa.

Some of his mini-articles are not bad—the title, for example, attributed to a British television reporter addressing a sample of Belgian civilians in the Congo; or the Frenchman at the Melouza massacre, assembling a sardine sandwich amidst heaps of rotting corpses and muzzling (in French or English? I wonder). "Atrocities always make me peckish"—but too many of the tales seem to qualify as all too trivial, and perhaps not nonsensical enough.

The author, moreover, displays an unfortunate tendency to bear witness to the old scores wherever possible, as in a pointless explanation of how Reuters anticipated the death of Pétain by six months and how it really wasn't Mr Behr's to begin with. After another is found wanting, each finely judged aside seems a little more tedious than the last.

Remove these uncharitable and, worse, uninteresting references to other journalists; cut down the woolly and unedifying political analyses that tend to fill up the long empty spaces between really good anecdotes, and you are left with a very little book indeed.

Tony Samstag

A History of the Ordnance Survey edited by W. A. Seymour (Dutton, £55).

Mountains, labour and much confusion over 17 years have produced this first complete and comprehensive history of one of our national institutions. A multitude of authors cover the map from its beginning with the establishment of the Royal Arsenal in the Tower of London to the major governmental review of 1978. It is a specialized matter, with chapters as engagingly hermetic as the one entitled "The Scales Dispute: Henry James 1854-63". It reads like a book put together by a committee. After the first draft, they had to start again because of duplication of subject matter in the technical chapters on such things as geodesy and the chronological narrative. Because of the 1978 review, it was not possible for the Ordnance Survey to publish it. But here it is at last, the book of the year for cartographers, map historians, and lovers of odd national institutions.



King Lear cracking heaven's vault from Macready's production of 1835 in Shakespeare's *Women* by Angela Pitt (David & Charles, £9.95). His restoration of Shakespeare's text and refusal to allow a happy ending shocked many of the audience. Cordelia was played by Helen Faucit.

Fiction

A Good Man in Africa

By William Boyd

(Hamish Hamilton, £6.95)

The Daughter

By Judith Chernaik

(London Magazine Editions, £5.50)

Kepler

By John Banville

(Secker & Warburg, £5.95)

Lloyd George

By David Benedictus

(Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £5.95)

Morgan Leary, First Secretary in the British Deputy Commission in the West African belt-hole Kinjanga, is a walking disaster area. When he has an affair with the European wife of a local politician he ends up being blackmailed by her husband. When he takes an African mistress she gives him a dose of the clap which leaves him quivering with frustration when the Deputy Commissioner's daughter finally decides to succumb to his over-weight charms. ("Don't touch it," he shrieked violently, as though to an innocent child, "it's a venereal disease.")

Alas, to get an idea of the appalling relationship between Karl Marx's daughter Eleanor ("Tussy") and Edward Aveling, a Victorian charlatan and mountebank who would not have seemed out of place in one of the third-rate melodramas of the 19th century, one must read *The Daughter* is all too real, and it is a measure of Miss Chernaik's skill that we accept Shaw, Havelock Ellis, and Olive Schreiner as key figures

warm woman, a cold beer, and a bit of a hard on. But it seems a bit hard on chap to land him with a boss who is both coward and bully, a boss's wife who expects him to function as Santa Claus at the children's Christmas party, a pair of destructively incompetent servants, and the task of disposing of a body which local superstition demands must be left to rot in the Commission compound, only hours before the arrival of a royal visitor.

Of course *A Good Man in Africa* is derivative. No comedy set in the Dark Continent can escape the influence of Waugh. There are shafts too of Tom Sharpe and unmistakable echoes of Amis, pere. Perhaps the characters are too stereotyped for this to be a really good novel, but the plot fairly rumbles along, and Mr Boyd's writing is a far more convincing country than those dreamt up by Waugh or by John Updike in *The Coup*.

Genuinely funny writers are as rare as employed unskilled workers on Merseyside, so let us not be measly-mouthed about this. Welcome aboard Mr Boyd, and three hearty cheers for Hamish Hamilton for serving up so toothsome a dish at a time of the year when we expect to make do with left-overs from the pre-Christmas banquet.

Thanks also to the publishers of *The Daughter* and *Kepler*, both of which would surely have held their own against stiffer competition in October or November. Judith Chernaik's book traces the appalling relationship between Karl Marx's daughter Eleanor ("Tussy") and Edward Aveling, a Victorian charlatan and mountebank who would not have seemed out of place in one of the third-rate melodramas of the 19th century. Scolding the *Daughter* is all too real, and it is a measure of Miss Chernaik's skill that we accept Shaw, Havelock Ellis, and Olive Schreiner as key figures

in her narrative without the least sense of suspension of belief that so often accompanies the incorporation of familiar historical characters into fiction. Her recreation of Tussy's Bohemian milieu is superbly effective, and the sensitivity of her observation and economy of style present us with a cool, in fact chilling, picture of the way men and women treat each other. But this is no dreary feminist tract or period piece. It is a first-rate novel set in an historical context which emphasizes rather than obscures its timelessness.

John Banville's *Kepler* is another historical tour de force. His prose fixates and sparkles as he conjures up the background of intellectual excitement and physical squalor against which mathematician Johannes Kepler wrestles with personal tragedy and the meanness of his patrons to match the achievements of his contemporary Galileo. Praise enough to say that Mr Banville's new book is a worthy successor to his prize-winning *Dr Copernicus*.

David Benedictus's *Lloyd George* is altogether smaller, but no less effective. This novelization of a bastard word—deserves a bastard word—of Elaine Morgan's forthcoming television series gives us a bloodless and surprisingly prurient account of the Welsh politician's life. Mr Benedictus's political judgements are naive and his humour is that of the Lower Fifth ("Probably the only influential person in Britain who managed to avoid David's arguments against the brutal and expensive war in South Africa was Queen Victoria, and she only managed it by dying"). More seriously, errors in such easy-to-check details as the dates of elections suggest that the author's commitments to historical accuracy is no more powerful than his hero's belief in the sanctity of the marriage vows.

John Nicholson

A deadly game

Counter Coup

By Kermit Roosevelt

The Struggle for the Control of Iran (McGraw Hill, £6.95)

This book could hardly be more timely. The anti-Americanism which swept through the Tehran mobs in 1979 and led to the seizure of the American Embassy has often been represented as a reactivated phenomenon, based on false emotions whipped up by the mullahs. In fact, the antagonism toward America runs deep in Iran, and anyone wanting to know why could do worse than to take a look at Kermit Roosevelt's memoir.

It is not actually Mr Roosevelt's intention to explain or even understand anti-Americanism, mind you. On the contrary, he regards American influence in Iran as a jolly good thing, and has no qualms at all about the episode which began it all, and in which he was himself involved: the overthrow of the Iranian Prime Minister in a coup in 1953, and the subsequent return of the CIA. The tone of the book is set on the first page of the foreword:

At the end of this true account, in the late summer of 1953, the Shah said to me truthfully, "I owe my throne to God, my people, and myself. I am not a tyrant, and I am not a puppet. I am a man, and I am proud of it."

Nice of Kermit to say so. Kermit Roosevelt—grandson of President Theodore Roosevelt—joined the CIA more for something to do than to advance the aims of American imperialism. He was young, energetic, hardy, and full of *Boys Own Paper* style heroics. In those now distant days it was still possible for a young American or Englishman to cut a romantic figure and hobnob with desert princes and revolutionaries. The game itself, however, was deadly serious. The Iranian Prime Minister, Mohammad Mossadeq, was the chief imperialist power. Mossadeq was regarded by the Americans as the thin end of a wedge opening the door to Soviet domination of Iran, and

on August 19, 1953, the CIA—with Kermit Roosevelt taking the lead—removed him. The Shah, who had gone into exile during the crisis, was brought back, and the rest, as they say, is history. Looking back, it is clear that this was the first of many miscalculations the United States was to make, all stemming from its obsession with the Communist threat. Sometimes this threat has been a real one; but more often than not it has been a phantom, and was so in Iran, where the Tudeh (Communist) Party did not even support Mossadeq, and indeed opposed him until the last moment.

There is no hint of this in Mr Roosevelt's rather anecdotal book. The prose is breezy. *Boys Own Paper* again—the centre of attention is the author himself, rather than Mossadeq or the Shah. There are some useful thumbnail sketches—such as the planning meeting at the State Department at which John Foster Dulles announced in his rasping voice, "This is how we get rid of that madman Mossadeq!" But there is little hint that the events of 1953 have been reconsidered, or that American actions were in any way mistaken.

Richard Owen

Here to stay

Face the Future

By David Owen

(Cape, £12.50)

More people these days are prepared to put in a good word for Dr David Owen. They point out, for example, that he is not Mr Roy Hattersley.

Mr Hattersley, however, writes better. This very long book can be heavy going; there are some long tramps over pretty flat ground. One is not surprised to learn, en route, that Dr Owen thought that the important Brandt Report was a rattling good read.

The book would probably have been a great deal better if it had not been produced in such a rush. As it stands, it is a monument to the author's formidable industry and to the publisher's entrepreneurial vim. But one wishes that the special Labour Party Conference had been a few months later so that *Face the Future* could have spent a little more time under the editor's pen.

These criticisms should not deter potential readers. For once, the publisher's blurb is not exaggerating when it describes this book as "one of the most constructive contributions to the political debate in Britain". It is said (though it is not this reviewer's experience) that Dr Owen is a trifle on the cocky side. On the evidence of all these pages, he has quite a lot to be cocky about.

Dr Owen's basic argument is that "at present the Labour Party is further removed from being a social democratic party than at any time in its history". It is no longer a radical movement; its conference is dominated by the unions and its thinking by corporatism. Even the intellectual champion of British social democracy, the late Anthony Crosland, put too much emphasis on centralized socialism and too little on participation and on changing attitudes through greater involvement of individuals in the decisions affecting their lives as citizens, workers and clients of the Welfare State. Corporatism lies at the heart of the country's problems and needs to be attacked at every point by a return to "a non-centralized, democratic Socialism", embracing the incorporation of co-ownership and industrial democracy, greater local democracy and more open and accountable government at every level.

Few will argue with Dr Owen's contention that the Labour Party has become more authoritarian in both its policies and its behaviour, though attacks on the "one man, one million votes" notion of democracy which rules the party would be rather more credible today if they had been advanced with equal passion by the Right when the block vote was in their own pocket. There are also supporters in every party of Adlai Stevenson.

Chris Patten

Three sides

The Kennaway Papers

By James and Susan Kennaway

(Cape, £5.50)

"I would not wish to publish this story if it were not that I found in James's notebooks and diaries some of the best writing that he has done," says Susan Kennaway. It sounds defensive: the story concerns a three-sided relationship—between herself, James and David. A friend and novelist, then a successful career.

James Kennaway died at the age of 40 in a road accident 12 years ago. He had always felt that his life would be short, and that he must pack as much as he could into it. He was a writer, a well-paid scriptwriter, the six novels, the living abroad and the four children educated at home.

It is difficult to know quite whether this book is an act of homage, reparation, or revenge. At times James Kennaway sounds absolutely intolerable—self-centred in the way that only writers can be, stimulated by rows and fights and scenes, compulsively unfaithful, with an added compulsion of insisting on telling his wife about his affairs. On the other hand, there was also "his zest for life, and the way he entertained us when he chose to". From James we discover the writer's insecurity and loneliness, his astonishment, fearful anger and angry fear when he found that his wife had taken as a lover his close and loving friend.

He was a great meddler with the lives of other people. As Susan Kennaway says: "James was a great manipulator of people. Many people seemed to think he had good advice to offer and that they were foolish enough to take it, but he enjoyed playing with people's lives, and it was inevitable that sooner or later he would need to begin to play with my life and mine. David's life and it was inevitable, too, the turn that would take."

James's reactions were both awful and comic—genuine and deep pain mixed with instructions to himself to remember to freeze the joint bank account. He knew it, of course, and it is fascinating and painful to discover how well he knew and understood himself, and others. "I must stop Dostoevskizing myself," he writes at one point. David could not leave his wife and children, and the affair ended. Later James and Susan came together again. He was, for all his impossibilities, superb company, and by comparison, everyone else was just a little

son's belief that "the average man is a great deal better than the average" and should be trusted to do more and decide more for himself. But it is difficult to believe that the key to Britain's revival lies in the introduction of local income tax and of direct elections to health authorities, or that the historic interests represented by Labourism "crumbling though they may be—will be easily replaced by a new public appetite for participatory democracy."

Nor are all Dr Owen's sallies against corporatism easy to follow. Sometimes he seems to be attacking the attempts to mobilize consent behind the responsible management of the economy. Keith Middlemass has shown that it is the breakdown of these attempts, not the political debate which has done most to undermine our economic performance. In his fashionable and wholly correct espousal of "concerted action" machinery along West German lines for reforming our pay bargaining procedures, Dr Owen appears, almost despite himself, to concede this point.

The attempt to fit almost everything into the anti-corporatist theme distorts what is otherwise a very good and— to use a Dr Owen sort of word—"challenging" book. He argues that:

One of the tragedies of much post-war economic practice is its rigidity, its search for solutions, its inability to learn from experience and to operate for any sustained period a mix of policies.

His own mix—particularly his views on the relationship between the public and private sectors, between current and capital expenditure, and between the government and manufacturing industry—contains a wealth of common sense, and he is never afraid to follow that marvellously provocative American economist, Lester Thurow, in arguing that it is only when we demand a solution with no costs that there can be one.

Dr Owen also has many interesting things to say about every conservation, family policy, community care, housing finance, disarmament, the future of the European Community, and almost every other subject which finds its way on to the political agenda. His views on the relationship between ministers and civil servants will doubtless be read with particularly close interest by all those officials who worked for him in government. Evidently before his views on participation were quite so fully developed.

Like him or not, Dr Owen is a serious radical and a brave man, and he has written an important book. Heaven knows what will happen to the Labour Party, but I fancy that Dr Owen is here to stay.

Chris Patten

Rare Books and Documents

CATALOGUE 40

MSS. Libro del Conocimiento, Geographical MS., 15th cent. (see also, *Journal of the Royal Society of Medicine*, 1979, 72, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560,

Increasing
pressure on the
Polish
economy, page 21

Stock markets	
FT Ind 459.4 down 8.0	FT Gilts 68.85 down 0.19
Sterling	
£2.4090 up 42.5 points	Index 81.6 up 0.4
Dollar	
Index 88.4 up 0.4	DM 2.0802 up 82 points
Gold	
\$524.50 up 57	
Money	
3-mth sterling 14 1/4-13 1/4	
3-mth Euro 5 17 1/2-17 1/4	
6-mth Euro 5 17 1/2-17 1/4	

EEC 'fair trade' investigation will delay £990m Leyland cash

From Michael Hornsby
Brussels, Jan 28

The additional state aid of £990m for BL announced by the Government earlier this week is to be held up for two months while the European Commission examines its compatibility with EEC fair trade rules.

In a related move, it was disclosed that Mr Wilfried Martens, the Belgian prime minister, made a last-minute appeal today to Mrs Thatcher to postpone the decision to close BL's Belgian assembly plant at Senefelt, south of Brussels.

Sir Peter Wakefield, the British ambassador to Belgium, was summoned to the prime minister's office this morning and asked to deliver a message to Mrs Thatcher. This was understood to state that it would be "desirable" if the closure decision could be delayed for at least a month.

Mr Martens' message stressed the Senefelt plant's good productivity record, its strike-free labour relations over 17 years, and the drastic impact the closure would have on an already depressed region where unemployment is at its highest level.

Similar points were made earlier in the week by a trade union spokesman from the Senefelt plant in talks with senior officials of the social and industrial affairs departments of the European Commission.

The trade unionists argued that given time, a purchaser for the plant could be found, and they mentioned Daimler of Japan as a possible buyer. But the company said today that all attempts to find a purchaser had proved fruitless.

There is speculation that the

decision to close the Senefelt plant might influence the Commission as it assesses the British Government's latest huge injection of funds into BL.

It is noted that Viscount Etienne Davignon, the EEC's commissioner for industry, is a Belgian, and that the commissioner responsible for fair trade, Mr Frans Andriessen, comes from Belgium's Benelux neighbour, Holland, where BL also has interests.

"So far, we have not been given any detailed reasons for this aid. We will need to be satisfied that there is a genuine restructuring plan if these payments are to be approved," a spokesman for the Commission said.

In essence, the Commission must be satisfied that the £990m will turn BL into a profitable and self-sustaining company within a reasonably short time, and not merely support a lame duck at the expense of other European car manufacturers.

Under Articles 92 and 93 of the Treaty of Rome, the European Commission is empowered to "keep under constant review" all grants of government aid by member states. If it is decided that such aid is "not compatible" or "is being misused", the Commission can prohibit or amend it.

If the state concerned failed to comply, the case goes before the European Court of Justice. The offending government would be liable to pay fines and be asked to return the aid.

The Commission's decision of the EEC's Council of Ministers.

Belgian unrest, page 20
Economic notebook, page 21

Belgian bitterness over Mini plant closure

By Edward Townsend

BL confirmed yesterday that it was closing its Mini assembly plant at Senefelt, near Mons in Belgium with the loss of 2,200 jobs. A further 225 workers at Cowley, near Oxford, who pack kits for the Belgian plant will also be made redundant.

There is considerable bitterness in Belgium over the Senefelt closure and anti-BL feeling is running high among the workers there, some of whom have occupied the plant. Some newspapers yesterday described as "blackmail" BL's threat to close down the distribution section of the plant as well if there was continued unrest.

The Senefelt closure, to take place in March, has been under consideration for some months as the BL board formulated its plan for further retrenchment and the concentration of car assembly in the United Kingdom.

BL's closure costs in Belgium, where statutory redundancy payments are high, are expected to be more than £2,000 (Belgian francs £25m) and will come from the £320m that has been earmarked in the corporate plan for extraordinary and exceptional expenditure during the continuing restructuring of the company.

In a statement to the Senefelt works council yesterday, BL

management stressed that in the last three years 33,000 jobs had been cut throughout the company and three factories closed. The Belgian plant was said to have made a loss of 55m francs (£688,000) in 1978 and 132m francs (£1.65m) in 1979. Losses for last year were expected to be considerably higher.

Workers were told that 500 employees in the plant's pre-delivery inspection and distribution operation, which handles all BL car exports to Europe, would not be affected.

The Senefelt factory was acquired by the British Motor Corporation in 1965 from an importer of Morris and MG vehicles as the main assembly base for European markets.

BL said that demand was insufficient to sustain production at both Longbridge and Senefelt. In addition, the company said that labour costs in Belgium were 61 per cent higher than in the United Kingdom, while Longbridge had achieved a steady improvement in productivity in the recent past which had reduced unit costs.

Production at Senefelt has declined rapidly in recent years from a total of 81,900 cars in 1977 to 37,500 last year. Because of reduced demand in the last quarter of 1980, Senefelt had been working about one week in four.

Last year BL sold about 100,000 cars in Europe, for a capture under two per cent of the market.

Record year for exporters

By Edward Townsend

Britain's motor industry exports worth £4,251m last year, putting the industry firmly back in profit after the first deficit on foreign trade of £287m recorded in 1979.

Figures from the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders show that the value of exports of all motor products

rose by 5 per cent while the value of imports declined by 16 per cent last year resulting in a trade surplus of £539m.

Exports of parts and accessories once again proved to be the mainstay of the industry's exporters, accounting for 22.04m of the 1980 total, a rise of 7 per cent on the previous year. Imports of parts fell by 14 per cent to £991m.

Bonn facing economic downturn

From Peter Norman
Bonn, Jan 28

The West German people were told today that they must expect a real drop in their standard of living this year.

Presenting what must be the gloomiest annual report on the economy ever drawn up by a West German government, Dr Otto Lamsdorff, the Economics Minister, told a press conference that while West Germany was in a better state than most countries, the "easy times" were over for the time being.

The government has forecast that in real terms gross national product will stagnate and could fall on average by one per cent in 1981. It expects consumer prices this year will rise by 4.5 per cent.

The current account balance of payments which, according to preliminary estimates, showed a deficit of 28.490m Deutsche marks (about £5,700m) last year, is likely to improve only a marginal improvement with the shortfall declining to between DM22,000m and DM25,000m. An average level of unemployment of 1.2 million a month is considered unavoidable for the whole of this year.



Dr Otto Lamsdorff: easy times are over.

At a press conference in Bonn, Dr Lamsdorff made it clear that these forecasts were based on the expectation that matters would improve in the course of 1981.

The g.n.p. forecast, he said, assumed a marked upward movement in the economy in the course of the year. The prices forecast also depended

on a general easing of inflationary pressures because a two per cent overhang was built into the consumer price index for this year.

The modest reduction in Germany's current account deficit presupposed rising exports and a reduction in imported energy costs, while inflationary wage settlements would push up the level of unemployment beyond the numbers forecast by the government.

There were positive sides to the German economy, the minister said. Industrial investment was holding up much better than after the first oil crisis of 1973. Whereas in 1974 real investments in new plant had fallen by 10 per cent, the drop expected for this year was only 2 per cent.

German companies were also in a better financial state than in 1974 as profits had not fallen as sharply. Moreover, Dr Lamsdorff said the Bonn government expected that Germany's exports would rise more swiftly than world trade, thanks in part to the devaluation of the mark on foreign exchange markets.

But he admitted that the forecasts were subject to risks. The world economy could be

subject to new disturbances, particularly on energy markets. Exporters could be lost, particularly in developing countries faced with greatly increased oil bills, and the growing wave of pessimism about the economy inside Germany could cause psychological damage and harm investor confidence.

The minister reaffirmed that the government would not introduce any new spending programme to stimulate the economy.

He underlined that so long as the current account balance of payments was so deeply in deficit there was no scope for a reduction in interest rates. The main goal of economic policy in these circumstances was to try to remove the blockages that were hindering investment. The government could best stimulate employment by helping to remove the barriers in the way of new power station projects, housing schemes and the development of Germany's communications network.

But the outcome of the annual round of wage bargaining that is underway in German industry would be of crucial importance.

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But the outcome of the annual round of wage bargaining that is underway in German industry would be of crucial importance.

Mr Reagan lifts last controls on oil production and marketing

From David Cross
Washington, Jan 28

With the stroke of a pen President Reagan acted today to lift all remaining Federal controls on American oil production and marketing immediately.

"For more than nine years, restrictive price controls have held United States oil production below its potential, artificially boosted energy consumption, aggravated our balance of payments problems and stifled technological breakthroughs," Mr Reagan said when he signed a presidential order to eliminate price and distribution controls.

Price controls have also made us more energy-dependent on the Opec (Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries)—a development that has jeopardized our economic security and undermined price stability at home," he added. The ending of price controls

was a positive first step towards a balanced energy programme—a programme free of arbitrary and counter-productive constraints—one designed to promote prudent conservation and vigorous domestic production.

Today's move, which was promised by Mr Reagan during the election campaign, is not as dramatic as it would first appear. Nearly two years ago President Carter decided that price controls should be phased out gradually and they now affect only some 15 per cent of the crude oil processed by American refineries and 25 per cent of the crude oil produced in the United States.

If Mr Reagan had failed to act they would have ended completely by September of this year in any case.

Thus, the decision to bring forward the complete abolition of the controls by a few months is seen here as a largely symbolic gesture designed to point a new direction for American energy policy. Unlike Mr Carter, Mr Reagan is much more interested in stimulating the search for new oil supplies than in conservation moves.

In the short term, however, the change is likely to have some modest impact on the United States economy. At a press conference today, James Edwards, the new Energy Secretary, said petrol prices at the pump would probably rise between 3 and 5 cents a gallon from the current level of some \$1.30 to \$1.40 (\$4p-5p).

Moreover, the move would probably help the government with its revenue-raising problems to the tune of some \$3,000m (£1,244m) to \$4,000m in taxes from the oil companies. The saving in consumption was likely to total between 50,000 and 100,000 barrels of oil a day, Mr Edwards said.

£16.8m bid for 'Golly' jams group

By Peter Wilson-Smith

Avana Group, the Cardiff-based food manufacturer headed by Sir Julian Hodge, has launched an unwelcome bid for Robertson Foods, the makers of "Golly" jams.

Taking advantage of its high share price, Avana is offering three of its own shares for every four Robertson shares. After the new Avana closed 20p lower at 192p valuing Robertson at £16.8m or 144p a share. Shares in Robertson rose 4p yesterday to 140p.

The bid follows talks a week ago between the two companies at which Robertson said it wished to remain independent. Mr Christopher Robertson, chairman, said he had hoped that was the end of the matter and the bid was unwelcome. "Obviously we must consider it, but we are not enamoured by the figure," he said.

A formal statement from Hill Samuel, Robertson's merchant bankers, advised shareholders to take no action until the board made a further announcement.

Besides making jams, Robertson is the second largest confectionery manufacturer in Britain and has interests in cakes and canned foods. It had pretax profits of £2.5m on 555m sales in the year to March 1980 but interim profits to September were down from £1.1m to £750,000.

Financial Editor, page 21

£158m Lonrho bid for Fraser

Continued from page 1

Lonrho cannot buy more Fraser shares in the market for the time being. This is because any purchase would take the company's stake above 30 per cent, thus making it a bid obligatory under the Takeover Code. But Lonrho cannot finally go ahead with the bid until it has the approval of its shareholders.

This gives the Fraser camp a breathing space in which to marshal its defences, which would probably include a revaluation of its properties. In addition, alternative buyers of the shares can be sought.

This may not involve a full alternative bidder because it is thought some institutional buyers might be willing to take stakes after Sir Hugh's departure.

Enough buyers could build up a purchase which would thwart Lonrho, though this would involve an operation costing about £40m.

Mr Rowland said afterwards: "We were asked either to put up or shut up. I have had four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten, eleven, twelve, thirteen, fourteen, fifteen, sixteen, seventeen, eighteen, nineteen, twenty, twenty-one, twenty-two, twenty-three, twenty-four, twenty-five, twenty-six, twenty-seven, twenty-eight, twenty-nine, thirty, thirty-one, thirty-two, thirty-three, thirty-four, thirty-five, thirty-six, thirty-seven, thirty-eight, thirty-nine, forty, forty-one, forty-two, forty-three, forty-four, forty-five, forty-six, forty-seven, forty-eight, forty-nine, fifty, fifty-one, fifty-two, fifty-three, fifty-four, fifty-five, fifty-six, fifty-seven, fifty-eight, fifty-nine, sixty, sixty-one, sixty-two, sixty-three, sixty-four, sixty-five, sixty-six, sixty-seven, sixty-eight, sixty-nine, seventy, seventy-one, seventy-two, seventy-three, seventy-four, seventy-five, seventy-six, seventy-seven, seventy-eight, seventy-nine, eighty, eighty-one, eighty-two, eighty-three, eighty-four, eighty-five, eighty-six, eighty-seven, eighty-eight, eighty-nine, ninety, 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EEC chief warns Tokyo over exports

European Community officials in Tokyo warned Japan yesterday that unless it curbed its exports and increased its purchases it may face new barriers to its booming trade with western Europe.

Sir Roy Denman, the European Commission director-general for external relations, pressed Japanese officials for assurances about the volume of exports for Europe this year of cars, electronics and other politically sensitive items.

While Sir Roy made his case for moderation in high-level talks with Japanese government officials, a survey released in Tokyo projected that Japan will produce 11,310,000 vehicles in 1981. This is up just 2.6 per cent from last year when Japan surpassed the United States for the first time as the world's leading vehicle manufacturer.

The Japan Automobile Manufacturers' Association reported that vehicle exports jumped 30 per cent last year to a record 5.97 million. Exports to the EEC climbed by nearly 21 per cent to 855,974, and to the United States by about 17 per cent to 2.4 million.

Record Ridgway bid

Balco of Sweden has reached agreement on an increased £4.7m takeover bid for Record Ridgway, the Sheffield-based tools manufacturer. The terms of the cash bid have gone up from 37p to 42p a share and are now being recommended by the Record Ridgway directors who had rejected the original £4.1m offer.

US embargo review

America is to reconsider the future of its grain embargo against the Soviet Union at a full cabinet meeting, probably next week, Mr John Block, the agriculture secretary said. Mr Block said he was not wavering from his opposition to continuing the embargo. He described American food prices as a "bargain" and "a modern day miracle" of restraint.

Irish borrowing

Mr Charles Murray, Central Bank of Ireland governor, expects the country's balance of payments problem to deteriorate further if present policies are unchanged. Maintaining reserve adequacy alone would require further substantial foreign borrowing this year, he said.

Champagne sales

French producers delivered 176.5 million bottles of champagne last year, a decline of 4.2 per cent on 1979, the industry Federation said yesterday. Deliveries to the French market fell by 5.4 per cent to 121.4 million bottles as exports declined by only 1.3 per cent to 5.5 million bottles.

Australian inflation

Australian inflation, measured by the weighted average of price rises in seven capital cities, rose to 2.1 per cent in the fourth quarter of 1980 from 1.9 per cent in the previous quarter, but fell from 3 per cent in the same quarter of 1979.

Dutch output rises

The Dutch seasonally adjusted industrial production index rose 1.8 per cent to a provisional 116, base 1975, in November from an upwards revised 114 in October. November production was 0.9 per cent below the same month in 1979.

Soviet cruise ship

The Mariya Ermolova, a 4,000-tonne Russian ship, will carry 150 passengers from Hull on cruises to Spitzbergen in the Arctic and to Murmansk on each of its four assessment cruises. The first cruise in June is already fully booked.

Mill contract cancelled

China has cancelled a \$420m (about £172.8m) contract with Mitsubishi of Japan for the construction of a steel rolling mill near Shanghai, Mitsubishi said yesterday.

Aid for Indonesia

Belgium has agreed to provide Indonesia with the equivalent of \$20.2m (about £8.1m) in grants, training and technical assistance to build 12 ships for the Indonesian customs service.

Vehicle exports

Japanese motor vehicle exports in 1980 were a record 5.97 million. Exports were up 30.8 per cent over the previous record of 4.55 million in 1979.

Pipeline finance

A consortium of West German banks is ready in principle to finance a portion of the planned gas pipeline to bring Soviet gas to Western Europe.

Venezuela Euroloan

Venezuela has awarded the mandate for its eight-year \$275m (about £113m) Euroloan to a group of four banks headed by the Swiss Banking Corporation.

Disillusionment grows among foreign investors over costs and politics

BL closure highlights Belgian unrest

BL's decision to close its Seneffe car assembly plant in Belgium is a symptom not only of the British company's own financial problems but also of the growing disillusionment of foreign investors with the Belgian industrial and political scene.

One of the stark statistics given by BL was that labour costs in Belgium are 61 per cent higher than in the United Kingdom. The increasing political differences between the Flemings and Walloons, high interest rates, government policies that are blamed for dangerously declining profitability and increasing economic and social unrest are additional problems for investors.

The Seneffe closure is not the first to hit Belgium's motor industry, which is exclusively car assembly. Peugeot and Saab left Belgium in 1977 and at the end of last year the French Citroën operation was shut. More recently Renault has been threatening to stop further investment in Belgium.

The two closures leave Belgium with five big car assemblers, of which two are American and three European. The largest is General Motors, which produced 340,673 cars in 1979, followed by Ford of Germany (314,318), Renault (161,898), Volkswagen (121,029) and Volvo (47,726). BL assembled 52,068 cars in Belgium in 1979 and Citroën made 38,172 which together accounted for 8.4 per cent of the total.

Much of the foreign—mostly multi-

national—investment in Belgium included in these figures was made in the 1960s when the country was recognized as an attractive entry point for the rest of Europe. Belgium, particularly for the car makers, was seen as the ideal venue for additional production lines and BL, which began operations in Seneffe in 1965, seized the opportunity to acquire a jumping off point into the surrounding markets of France and West Germany.

Belgium offered a pool of skilled, highly productive workers, economic stability and a central position in Western Europe. Foreign investment, of which 65 per cent came from American companies, boomed.

By 1979, however, foreign investment in manufacturing in Belgium had slumped to 90 per cent of the 1969 figure and the car makers were in the forefront in re-thinking their investment decisions.

Last autumn, with new car sales throughout Europe declining rapidly, the big Belgian car plants, which produced mostly for export, were forced to cut back.

Ford, General Motors and Volvo introduced short time working, BL's plant was operating for only one week in four and it was estimated that total Belgian car output in 1980 would be 5 per cent down on 1979.

The cuts highlighted the vulnerability of the Belgian industry to market changes and the fact that decisions affecting the plants were taken outside the country and specifically in Germany.

Ford Werke's plant at Genk in Flanders, for example, is in effect a branch of Ford in Cologne and normally 43 per cent of its output is sold in Germany and only 5 per cent in Belgium.

Of the total of just over one million cars assembled in Belgium in 1979, 986,000 were exported, almost all of them to Germany, the United Kingdom, France, The Netherlands and Italy.

At home, the Belgian Government has been unable to halt the increasing flow of imported Japanese cars, another factor that has angered some of the foreign companies with Belgian assembly facilities. Renault's threatened investment freeze was a direct result of the apparent unwillingness to curb Japanese car sales in Belgium.

Between 1974 and 1980, the Japanese share of the Belgian car market rose from 13 to 25 per cent. Last year the market declined by 5.2 per cent while the share captured by the Japanese, led by Toyota, Honda and Nissan, rose by 28.6 per cent on the previous year.

The new competition for the Belgians in the latest car industry closure is that BL will continue to use Seneffe as its European pre-delivery inspection point although there must be fears among the remaining 500 workers that this operation could easily and quickly be transferred elsewhere.

Edward Townsend

Protest by NEDO on energy costs

By Peter Hill

Protests are to be lodged with the Secretary of State for Energy and Industry over the scale of increases planned in industrial electricity tariffs.

The iron and steel sector working party of the National Economic Development Office is warning to write to Mr David Howell and Sir Keith Joseph expressing concern that increases of between 14 and 16 per cent should be proposed on industrial electricity prices before the task force, appointed by NEDO had submitted its report.

Dr David Atterton, chairman of the working party, said yesterday that he was "shattered and annoyed" by the proposed rises in view of the investigations being undertaken by NEDO.

The task force is examining the problems faced by the iron and steel, chemicals, paper and board and foundries industries over fuel prices. The industries claim several detailed studies have shown conclusively evidence that they are paying disproportionately more for electricity, gas and fuel oil than European competitors.

The working party has also expressed reservations about the composition of the task force, which includes no representatives of major using industries.

Move to ease industry gas burden ruled out

By John Huxley

Ministers have ruled out any move to accelerate domestic gas price increases as part of a long-term strategy to ease tariffs paid by industrial users.

The Government decided last year that domestic prices should increase at 10 per cent above inflation over each of the three years to 1983, by which time tariffs would reach "economic" levels.

However, it has been urged by some industry leaders to speed up this process, and relieve some of the burden on business consumers. Among the advocates of this policy is Sir Keith Joseph, the Secretary of State for Industry.

Yesterday, Mr David Howell, the Secretary of State for Energy, told MPs that he had turned down this suggestion, as he had done to British Gas requests that the three-year transition period be extended.

He said that it was a case of having to strike a balance between domestic and industrial users.

Mr Howell was giving evidence to the Commons select committee on energy, which is conducting a short study of energy pricing policy. He said that the department would not adopt "backshot" policies, which would attempt to solve the problems of British industry by offering a general reduction in its energy costs.

To "wade off into the wilderness" of subsidies, controls and the rest "would be to throw public money away in a misguided attempt to help industries which had particular and separate difficulties."

The Government's view remained that energy must be priced according to economic principles which took account of the cost of supply on a continuing, long-term basis. Within these guidelines, energy supply industries were expected to show flexibility.

"Artificial underpricing or blanket subsidies to industrial users would be a waste of national resources," he explained in a note to the committee. He went on: "If any action is called for it must be precisely directed."

This was already being done in a number of areas and specific cases. British Gas was investigating the introduction of a new type of interruptible contract for industrial users, electricity supply industry officials were reviewing the bulk supply tariff arrangements.

Mr Howell said his department was anxious to take up any cases of alleged unfair energy pricing by industry's rivals overseas. He said the department maintained that "there is no convincing evidence that for the vast majority of United Kingdom industrialists energy costs are out of line with Europe."

Minister's warning on cheap oil

By Our Industrial Staff

It would be the height of folly for Britain to live cheaply off its own oil, Mr David Howell, Secretary of State for Energy, said yesterday.

He told the British Institute of Energy Economics in London that it was not to be discouraged by the search for new oil and other energy sources, but to use and share British energy resources.

When North Sea oil was exhausted, Britain would face a world in which energy was scarce and expensive, and our competitors had adapted to low-energy, efficient industrial processes.

Sea oil cheap, Britain would not be able to prevent other countries buying it at knock-down prices and reaping the profit.

Mr Howell said that oil producers and consumers had a common interest in preserving a stable market. "That is not to say that oil prices should not rise. But it does mean that any increase must be both of a magnitude that our economies can absorb and of a reasonably steady and predictable nature."

"Higher prices have tended to come in jumps. These have a particularly adverse impact through the strong cyclical behaviour of the world economy."

Short-time hits car industry hardest

By Frances Williams

More and more workers are beginning to suffer as the recession bites further into employment and earnings. At the end of last year unemployment continued to rise, overtime was reduced and there was more short-time working, plus a decline in productivity, with manufacturing industry still the worst affected.

Figures published yesterday in the Department of Employment Gazette show that in mid-November one in three shop-floor workers in the car industry were on short-time. Concentration of this industry in the West Midlands has pushed up the numbers on short time there to a quarter of all manual workers in manufacturing, almost double the proportion in the next most affected region in Great Britain, Wales.

Other industries hit by short-time working were metal manufacture, shipbuilding, cotton textiles and footwear, with a fifth of workers in their manual work affected.

Total hours lost through short-time in manufacturing rose 3 per cent in a month to November.

More than half a million are now on short time, but the number of hours lost per worker fell slightly, from 15.4 to 14.0 hours a week. Overtime working fell from 8.9 million hours a week in October to 8.39 million in November on a seasonally adjusted basis. This represents a substantial slowing down of the decline in overtime seen in the two months to October. But it is only just over half the amount of overtime worked a year earlier.

Employment in manufacturing continued to decline rapidly in November, with 35,000 jobs lost, the same as in October, and more than twice the average monthly fall in the first quarter of 1980.

The Gazette points out that three-quarters of a million jobs have been lost in manufacturing since mid-1979, compared with a loss of 600,000 jobs in the previous recession in the two years to mid-1976.

Almost all industrial sectors are cutting jobs, including the service sector which was, in the decade to 1979, the major source of new jobs.

But the fall in employment has not been fully reflected in the corresponding rise in unemployment, mainly because some have retired early and others, principally married women, have ceased to look for work.

Productivity in manufacturing fell 3.1 per cent between the third quarters of 1979 and 1980.

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- or
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WANDSWORTH COMMON

KNIGHTSBRIDGE

DEVON, BIDEFORE

COUNTRY PROPERTIES

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Postal rates at home and abroad

From Mr R. A. Butler

Sir, British postal rates to overseas countries are going up by 33.3 per cent, ie, from 13p to 18p, while the EEC postal rates to the United Kingdom were reduced by 23 per cent from January 1 on the occasion of British attainment of "full membership" of the EEC.

Put in simple terms, in British currency, the Dutch can write to us for 12p but we have to pay 18p to write to them. Similar rates to the Dutch apply to other EEC full members writing to each other.

What I would like to know is why we should be denied this benefit of full membership of the EEC when at long last we have become entitled, and are the extra Post Office profits to be funnelled into the Treasury? Or is it just another EEC injustice towards their old friend the United Kingdom?

Yours faithfully,
R. A. BUTLER,
12 Sandown Road,
Sandwich, Kent,
CT13 9NY.
January 23.

From Mr Anthony Tinkel

Sir, I wonder whether any others among your readers share my dismay that, as part of its current round of increases in charges, the Post Office has abolished the smaller size of airmail letter that used to cost 14 pence.

I now have to use a size that I don't like and which itself has been increased to 20 pence. So my letters outside Europe now cost me almost 45 per cent more.

If my local postmistress is correct in saying that the smaller airmail letter was overwhelmingly more popular, why get rid of it?

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY TINKEL,
4 Lancing Close,
Reading, RG3 2UQ.
January 26.

From Mr Douglas Sampson

Sir, It cost me 12 pence to post this letter to you, and by the end of the month it will cost 14 pence. If I had posted

the letter to you from Johannesburg, it would cost less than 9 pence (and probably have arrived as quickly).

How can this be?
Yours faithfully,
DOUGLAS SAMPSON,
Derek Lovejoy & Partners,
9 Coates Crescent,
Edinburgh, EH3 7AL.
January 22.

From Mr Peter Graves

Sir, Today (January 24) I sent off a parcel to West Germany and paid £4 in postage. I was told by the clerk that when the rates go up on Monday, a similar parcel will in future cost £6.25. I wonder by what argument the Post Office would seek to justify such extortion?

Yours faithfully,
PETER GRAVES,
University of Leicester,
Department of German,
University Road,
Leicester, LE1 7RH.
January 24.

How fuel costs hit elderly

From Mr John Bray

Sir, Some years ago we were told of the benefits which would arise from the vast fields of gas discovered under the North Sea. Shortly thereafter gas technicians arrived at our houses and altered the burners in our cooking stoves and central heating plants and made our gas fires obsolete and unworkable. In spite of this cornucopia of gas, prices have steadily risen and we are now told, are to rise more.

Many of those who had installed gas central heating plants cannot afford to use them and have had to pass the winter crouched over small blenders, or electricity which is in price by over 11 per cent. Now, all this may not affect so much those who can demand and get

more and more money for their labours, but the elderly, the production of whose bodily heat is on the decline, need special protection. Those over 70, especially those retired from the rat race, should not have to pay for these perpetual price increases. They should have rebates on their gas and electricity bills, for otherwise the ill health inevitably associated with age and ill income. The Government, which determines the monopoly prices of these domestic services, must now set up a scheme to give some compassionate relief to the aged section of the population.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN BRAY,
Honorary Secretary,
Fund for Research on Ageing,
5 Cambridge Gate,
London, NW1.
January 24.

From Mrs T. S. Sampson

Sir, Amid all your preoccupations with matters of great state in southern England, spare a thought for the men of the north and their wives; those who fly out to the rigs north of Shetland to produce the black gold so necessary for modern civilization, the crofters and the people who live in storm force 13 to feed their sheep, while their children have to stay inside as they literally cannot stand upright in the wind; the sailors of the St Magnus and St Clare battling

to take food and drugs to the islands against 20 foot waves; and the helicopter pilots who not only make dramatic rescues from sea and mountain but also fly hospital cases to care and safety as a matter of routine.

Spare all these people a thought as you travel to work in overheated offices by speeding transport or better still, by saving their safety.

Yours faithfully,
SHIRLEY-SAMPSON,
Mairns of Balgavies,
By Forfar,
Angus.
January 15.

A thought for the North

From Mrs T. S. Sampson

Sir, Amid all your preoccupations with matters of great state in southern England, spare a thought for the men of the north and their wives; those who fly out to the rigs north of Shetland to produce the black gold so necessary for modern civilization, the crofters and the people who live in storm force 13 to feed their sheep, while their children have to stay inside as they literally cannot stand upright in the wind; the sailors of the St Magnus and St Clare battling

to take food and drugs to the islands against 20 foot waves; and the helicopter pilots who not only make dramatic rescues from sea and mountain but also fly hospital cases to care and safety as a matter of routine.

Spare all these people a thought as you travel to work in overheated offices by speeding transport or better still, by saving their safety.

Yours faithfully,
SHIRLEY-SAMPSON,
Mairns of Balgavies,
By Forfar,
Angus.
January 15.

The Telecom monopoly

From Mr Graham Lea

Sir, Database producers share Mr Findlay's concern (*The Times*, January 26) about the British Telecom monopoly. The United Kingdom is a net exporter of information held in computers in various countries. Online information retrieval from databases is a daily requirement for many organizations in the highly competitive world; there is no room for bad business judgment that results from inadequate information. Consequently, access from computer terminals via the telephone to the best and fullest information available is essential for rational business decisions. Members of the Association of Database Producers, a United Kingdom trade association, have suffered for many months (as have would-be users) from the deterioration of the International Packet Switched Service, and the delays and misjudgments over the national Packet Switched Service, and Euronet.

We believe that the time has come for a relaxation of the British Telecom monopoly. This can be done immediately and at no cost to the taxpayer. If this is not done, then Britain will lose out to the highly subsidized embryo information industries being established in France and Germany.

Yours faithfully,
GRAHAM LEA,
Chairman,
The Association of Database Producers,
PO Box 1024,
Westminster,
London SW1.

Secretarial and Non-Secretarial Appointments

SECRETARIAL

JUNIOR SECRETARY

MAYFAIR W1

SENIOR SECRETARIES

Stella Fisher

PERSON FRIDAY

EXECUTIVE PA

DRAGON CONSULTANTS

YOUNG PUBLISHING

EDITORIAL TYPIST

COVENTRY BUREAU

SECRETARIAL

SECRETARIES FOR ARCHITECTS

SECRETARIAL

SECRETARIAL

SECRETARIAL

SECRETARIAL

PART-TIME VACANCIES

MAYFAIR W1

SENIOR SECRETARIES

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PERSON FRIDAY

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SECRETARIAL

SECRETARIAL

SECRETARIAL

SECRETARIAL

SECRETARIAL

SECRETARIAL

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Reliving history with Mr Rowland

An uncanny air of déjà vu clings to Lornho's assault on the House of Fraser. Almost a decade ago Mr Rowland cut a swathe through another board of directors—on that occasion his own—in order to regain domination of Lornho. He was backed in doing so by loyal small shareholders but he succeeded also in seriously embarrassing the Heath Government.

He has now bought into, needed, caajoled, harassed and finally bid for House of Fraser. The City stands by bemused and faintly in awe of events. But there is public disquiet about the situation and the possibility must be that the antics of Mr Rowland and Sir Hugh Fraser will again bring down the wrath of Whitehall.

The similarity to the "Lornho Affair" of the early 1970s becomes still more pronounced when the motivation of Lornho is taken into account. That earlier furore was started by Lornho's requirement for cash. It was generating plenty of profit

Hawley Hale which was shrewd enough to sell its stake to Lornho. So there is no need to doubt the eagerness with which Lornho would accept a price of more than 150p a share for its Fraser holding; unhappily this eagerness could be matched by a lack of takers.

Lornho's position

As for Lornho's bid it could be a case of "heads I win tails you lose" for Mr Rowland. On paper at least, whatever the outcome of yesterday's assault it cannot be worse than financing a Fraser stake worth almost £70m returning less than 5 per cent in dividends.

Suggestions that the property revaluation at House of Fraser could lift asset value from below 170p a share to almost £3 could be exaggerated. But anything near this figure could mean Lornho adding something like £150m to net worth if successful at these terms.

The £150m cost of taking over Fraser may look huge against Lornho's own capitalization of over £250m, but that does not allow for the eccentric relationship between the group's stock market rating and its balance sheet.

Basing estimates on latest figures at the time of Lornho's autumn rights issue to raise £35m, the group has net debt of possibly under £300m—excluding £80-£90m export financing—against shareholders' funds of over £460m. Free cash could be close to £80m.

Of course City expectations are for Lornho's profits due next month to rise by almost half to around £125m on the back of booming returns in Africa. "Low-quality" these earnings may be, but they seem to have a habit of coming to Lornho's rescue when good old-fashioned British assets fail to produce the goods.

In the longer run of course department stores may be heading for extinction in which case Fraser's assets value could prove almost unreal. However, it is hard to imagine that Fraser's High Street properties could not be made to work as incidentally the controversial £29m D.H. Evans sale and leaseback deal shows.

Apprehension sent Lornho's shares down another 2p to 97p yesterday but the only real fear for Mr Rowland's loyal band, at least as far as this deal is concerned, must be that he will be chased up to much higher ground in the face of opposition. Disgruntled shareholders in Fraser may yet prevent this, though by bailing out at an exit price which could be around 18 times earnings on profits due to come out in April.



Professor Roland Smith, the new House of Fraser chairman after yesterday's meeting.

overseas but was unable to remit it back to his country. A frenzied programme of United Kingdom acquisitions followed in the mid-1970s.

However, the recession has upset the earnings ability of those companies, so Mr Rowland's new buccannery venture again seems to be aimed at restructuring Lornho's balance sheet. Meanwhile the sheer extravagance of his stalking of House of Fraser, impossible in the years of regulation and restriction after the last battle, has been implicitly sanctioned by the political mood.

But has Mr Rowland exploited a mood and created a monster? For buried somewhere beneath this recent history of corporate brutality there is an indisputably important public company which has been deprived of its stability by an extraordinary clash of personalities. Yet who is left to protest? The institutions argue that the fall is now out of their court: a bid is on the table and shareholders are free to take view.

Should the Government intervene? The obvious weapon would be a Monopolies Commission reference, but Mr Rowland presumably feels relatively relaxed about his after his success with the SUITS reference.

As it happens second thoughts had House of Fraser shares retreating to well below Lornho's cash price yesterday and one can obviously see the fear of a Monopolies reference. There is, after all, a precedent in the referral of the Boots bid or Fraser in November, 1973.

But even leaving this aside it does little to make Fraser look attractive to third parties, or example, property companies. The biggest of these are unlikely to be interested because at £200m, the value of the Lornho offer, Fraser is priced above the market capitalizations of all but the top concerns and these have evinced no interest in taking on the problems of running department stores, let alone those at Fraser.

Clearly, for a would-be developer to go through the entire Fraser portfolio from Perth to Tunbridge Wells would be a major task, and the suspicion must be that Harrods and stores in Tunbridge Wells apart, a lot of the others would simply be encumbrances. Planning difficulties would be numerous and who would want to develop a decaying city centres? It is well known that scores of Fraser stores have been losing money, and the established view, obscured temporarily by the influx of American and Arab visitors, is that the department store business is in irreversible decline.

There must be a possibility of a large international business such as BAT or Consolidated Goldfields pondering Fraser is an addition to United Kingdom profits, which was, after all, why Lornho got involved. There could, one supposes, be a foreign bidder but presumably not Carter

Economic notebook

The last of the big spenders

"Unbelieving monetarists" was the phrase used to describe the Treasury under the last Government and as so often the case unbelievers bring a special dedication to their task.

Sir Keith Joseph has drifted into becoming an "unbelieving interventionist" at the Department of Industry. The extent to which this process has led him to subvert the whole logic of the Government's policy was made extraordinarily clear in his unhappy defence on Monday of the decision to give BL the £990m it wanted to finance its corporate plan.

This defence is the same as BL's. The company really made great strides last year, but was held back by a high exchange rate. "The strong pound is the main reason... for the need to ask for Government funding additional to that in the 1980 plan", BL said. This view was endorsed publicly by Sir Keith.

It opens the way for endless demands from state-owned industries. The BL plan assumes that the pound will have an average exchange rate of 74 on the Bank of England index, a year compared with its present level of 81. (This index is calculated by the Bank in a way which takes account of the trading importance for the United Kingdom of the world's major currencies.)

If the Government believes that, it is keeping very quiet about it. If it does not, then the same logic which gave BL £990m would justify giving it further help. If the pound stays at its present level, £990m will not be enough.

Will Sir Keith go on television, then, to explain why he is responding favourably to the telegram from Sir Michael Edwards saying: "Corporate plan working perfectly. Send more money."

Nor does it stop at BL. The British Steel Corporation needs further help. The £100m it needs to compete with German producers. Rolls-Royce built its whole corporate plan around a falling exchange rate. Further help is now needed.

So far, Sir Keith and the Government have been fairly discreditable in at least one sense. The private sector has received little or no help in coping with its own problems of living with the exchange rate. Companies have merely received per talks about "the need to live within our means".

This policy is now clearly breaking down. A major programme of industrial help is being pressed within Whitehall, including some straight cash grants. Where BL leads, Tailor will not be far behind.

Package of measures

But it also involves more subtle forms of industrial aid. The 1975 Budget, for example, the 1975 Budget, for example, being changed to help industry even when stock levels fall. There is a good chance that the payment of regional development grants will be speeded up. A whole package of measures, some of which will cost government money, are under discussion.

All these things will be paid for by increasing the tax on individuals. This has a logic of a kind behind it. The fashionable one cannot be a straight grant of money within government rules as follows: North Sea oil has imposed a quite unexpected revaluation on sterling. There is nothing we can do to stop this. Attempts to argue down the value of the pound will either mean we lose our grip on the money supply or will lead to a sharp depreciation. Either way, we shall be faced with a surge in inflation. The right solution, it is argued, is to force us to do something quite different. This is to help those sectors of the industrial base of the country which are worst hit by sterling's appreciation.

On this basis, Sir Keith is doing extremely well. He is wrong with this approach. One is that the claim that nothing can be done about the exchange rate is false. A lot could be done were it not for the fact that the Government is hooked on the anti-inflationary fix which an overvalued exchange rate provides.

The second failure of analysis comes from not realizing where this approach leads.

Let us assume that it becomes part of government policy to protect the corporate sector from the impact of exchange rate appreciation. It can do this through the route, apparently favoured by Sir Keith, of stepping up public spending. Or there could be cuts in corporate taxation.

But, if the Government believes in controlling the growth of the domestic money supply, this leads to one of two equally unpalatable courses of action. One is to raise taxes on the corporate sector, which seems to be its present policy. Yet this makes nonsense of Sir Keith's vision of supply side economics.

Interest rates

Paying out government assistance to industry which is financed by taxes on individuals is not what "The Right Approach" to the economy is meant to be about. It is an economic error, an even bigger extension of the Government's role in the economy than the imposition of import controls to help industry.

The other option for the Government would be to go on spending money, but to keep tight control of the money supply by maintaining high levels of interest rates. This, too, is completely out of line with what the Government says it wants to do.

It is also, against the background of a predetermined monetary target, a recipe for a vicious circle. High interest rates lead to a high exchange rate. This leads to the need for a massive package of measures, which requires higher interest rates. In turn we get a higher exchange rate and the process goes on.

What has happened is this. The Government's obsession about not intervening in the foreign exchange markets has become an engine which risks breeding unlimited amounts of government support for industry. This assistance will not be for the kind which will provide the cash which is needed for a sound recovery in the second half of the decade. Instead, it will simply be used to cover current losses in traditional industries.

If this help is not given, the industry will close down and unemployment will rise. There are those who believe that North Sea oil will lead inexorably and desirably to the closure of big chunks of our manufacturing industry. Were it not for the fact that economists and the Department of Industry do not seem to go together, this is the choice of which Sir Keith would be aware.

The tragedy is that there is a perfectly sensible course which could be followed. This is a package of economic policy deals with the things which it can cope with, like the overall level of demand. Industrial policy deals with quite different things, such as imperfections in the market.

If that attitude were adopted, there would be no shortage of projects on which Sir Keith could spend money and he would also be able to justify a good slice of help for BL.

Instead, he has become the last of the big spenders, while the rest of the government, preaching the principles of cutting spending.

A large part of Sir Keith's thinking on economics has revolved around the idea that the consumer should decide in the market. Economists who rely on the consumer's behaviour tell us a lot on the idea of revealed preference, which comes down to the idea that you judge what people want by what they do. On that basis, the Secretary of State for Industry makes most of his colleagues look like fervent "dries".

David Blake

Mounting pressures on Poland's economy

Poland's tangled financial problems will have to be put back on the international agenda soon. It is the political aspects of the crisis—the strikes and the internal squabbles within the communist party—which hog the television screens and acres of newspaper day after day. Much less attention has been paid to the economic instability of the country. Yet it is this which has given rise to the present political upheavals and the problem will not go away.

The conflict between the Solidarity union and the government over ending Saturday working is directly related to the economic problems which industry is facing. The government claims that it cannot grant a five-day week outright, as agreed in Gdansk last year, because of the difficulties which this would impose on industrial production and because of the need to export.

Coal production, for example, has fallen sharply since the Gdansk agreements which gave miners important concessions in their working conditions. This has affected exports to such countries as East Germany, which traditionally relies on Polish coal.

The problems in Poland's farming areas are adding to the difficulties. If the country is ever to get out of its present plight it will have to rely heavily on improved agriculture.

Last year Poland had to import some 8 million tonnes of grain and more than 1 million tonnes of animal feed. The government hopes that eventually it will be able to halve grain imports, thereby giving the economy a much needed breathing space.

In fact, in such conditions the balance of trade would move into a comfortable surplus and the whole question of international debts would take on a less forcing aspect.

But that hope is forlorn. There is no prospect of much improved food production. Because of crop failures last year and a poor planting season the spring harvests this year will again be disappointing.

Moreover, the present struggles in the countryside for the right to form independent peasant unions is in the short term also affecting food output. Until some agreement is reached between the government and the peasants on much needed reforms, real improvements in agriculture will not take place. This again is likely to have an adverse impact on Poland's foreign trade.

Last year Poland was budgeting for a modest surplus on its trade account, but it has missed the target, possibly by a wide margin. Towards the end of last year Polish officials were predicting a deficit of perhaps £500m, but western observers now believe that when the full figures are published the deficit could turn out to be more than £1,000m.

This year too, with industrial

production still affected and with mounting debt obligations, Poland's foreign balance will still be largely in deficit. The trade account which early last year was expected to be in surplus in 1981, is likely to remain in the red.

This is the background to the financial negotiations which will be taking place this year with western creditors. The present position regarding Poland's debts is shrouded in mystery and there is certainly no evidence that major negotiations are taking place at the moment.

But Poland now has some \$24,000m of debts to western creditors—excluding short-term commitments—and will this year be seeking some \$9,000m to \$10,000m, including money for repayment of debts coming up to redemption and fresh loans for imports. It is difficult to see how it will work out in practice.

The debts can be broadly classified into two categories—those which are owed to western banks and those which are backed by foreign government credit guarantee schemes. These operate in all western countries on lines similar to Britain's Export Credit Guarantee Department.

There are no figures available to show how much has been lent to Poland under the government guarantee schemes, but most observers believe that a large proportion of the total debt has been backed by such guarantees. Britain's own government has granted Poland debt amounts to about £2,600m.

In the past two months representatives of countries in the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development have held several meetings in Paris to discuss the question. Officially, nothing has emerged from these talks, which have been held in some secrecy, but more meetings are scheduled in the coming weeks. These are likely to take place between the credit guarantee organizations and Polish officials.

In Poland itself talk of a moratorium on debts or even rescheduling them has been officially rejected. This could in the end turn out to be the only feasible and realistic solution to the problem, but the Poles fear that such an outcome could lead to a slump in the country's credit rating.

So far the Poles have been punctilious in meeting debt repayments when these fall due. Even though commercial banks are wary of making further loans to the country, the repayments are all being paid on time. As a leading banker puts it: "So far they have honoured to the letter their obligations to commercial banks."

But no major international loan operation seems to be in preparation at the moment. Polish officials have certainly been talking to western banks but until the country's internal situation is clarified they do not seem to expect large new commitments from these private sources.

The banks in any case would, in this instance, follow the lead

of their governments. And the advent of the new Reagan Administration in the United States has made things somewhat uncertain. American banks have played a leading role in lending or arranging credits for Poland and they are likely to wait and see what the attitude of the new administration is going to be.

The Carter Administration was by and large in favour of helping Poland, but it is not clear what the Reagan government will do. The Poles are hopeful. As one leading minister said to me: "After all, Republican administrations have historically proved better for us."

Meanwhile, some help for the beleaguered Polish economy has come from the Common Market and from EEC countries. It is not at all clear how much the Soviet Union has lent to Poland in hard currency in the past few months, but most observers reckon that the aid has been substantial. Some estimates put it as high as \$1,000m.

But besides hard currency loans—a large proportion of which may well have been used to pay back western loans and preserve the credit of the most Soviet bloc—the Soviet Union and the other Comecon countries have given direct aid in terms of food and other products.

The European Community as a group and individual European countries have been helping Poland. In December the EEC member countries agreed to supply Poland with foodstuffs at favourable prices. The overall agreement was for a total of about \$300m and since then several countries have sent their agreed share of subsidized exports to Poland.

The package included the sale, on credit terms of grain and meat from the Community's reserves. Britain, for example, is sending 1,000 tons of meat. In December the EEC member countries agreed to supply Poland with foodstuffs at favourable prices. The overall agreement was for a total of about \$300m and since then several countries have sent their agreed share of subsidized exports to Poland.

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But these are very much temporary arrangements to meet a difficult situation. Most creditors, including the banks, are waiting to see how the internal situation develops in Poland. The attitude of the new American government will also be crucial.

The idea of a moratorium is gaining ground to treat what is likely to be an otherwise untractable situation. Even if the Poles are reluctant, the final deal that emerges could well avoid the world, while effectively including the substance of a comprehensive debt rescheduling package.

Roman Eisenstein

Business Diary: Gap in the Siemens saga • Abbey Natural

For the first time in its 133-year history Siemens AG, West Germany's leading electrical concern, no longer has a member of the founding family at the top.

The seventieth birthday today of Peter von Siemens marks the end of a career with the company of nearly half a century. Von Siemens has just stepped down after a nine and half year stint as Siemens supervisory board chairman.

He shared the running of the group with Bernhard Pletner, who, at the age of 66, now moves up from being chairman of the managing board into Von Siemens' shoes.

Pletner is an engineer by phrasing and will be replaced by another engineer, Arthur Kaske, as chief executive of the group.

But these changes do not necessarily mean that the family is losing control of the company. It still has an estimated 10 per cent of Siemens' capital of 1,910m Deutsche marks (about £390m) and there is a crown prince.

Pletner, who has been aptly described as the major-domo of the Siemens family, is likely to be succeeded by his son, Peter Carl von Siemens, the 43-year-old son of the newly retired supervisory board chairman, is ready to take over.

At present Peter Carl is a junior manager with the company, but, insiders say, it will be some time before the call



Oh, I agree. Labour's in disarray and so are the Conservatives, but what proof have you that a Centre Party wouldn't also be in disarray?

Abbey National chief general manager Clive Thornton has decided to sell some of the assets of this, the country's second biggest building society.

There is no need for investors to worry, though. The assets are literally "liquid". What is more, in view of the building societies' sober image, the liquid is water.

Abbey National House, the society's headquarters, are in Baker Street, London, and like many another building on that thoroughfare it is claimed to be on the site of Sherlock Holmes' chambers at 221B. Had either he or that number ever existed, that is.

Abbey National's HQ, is how-

ever, incontestably on the site that once bought a luxury cabriolet for the price of an old second-hand Mini. Avoid the cheap bars and low class hotels around the Hans-Albert-Platz and on the fish market.

In the smart contact cafes like the Lausen and the Mehler, in bars of such hotels as the Luxor, Nobistor, Clubhotel, Columbus and Princess you can meet excitingly beautiful and well-dressed girls and you will have no trouble with these "lovelies".

It also lists "safe" sex shows, and advises travellers to eat a good square meal before boozing, never to take a cheque book and not to go alone.

To the question "Do you have, or would you print, a foreign language guide to Soho for businessmen?" the GLC replied: "No, and we would be in trouble with our ratepayers if we did."

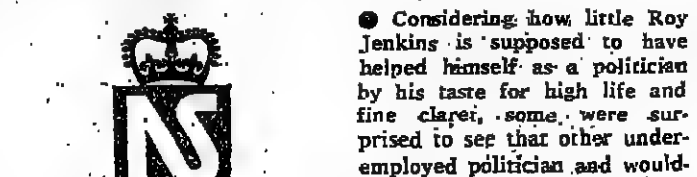
Westminster Council said that its only foreign guide was a set of parking instructions in Italian, French, German and Arabic and the London Tourist Board said: "Soho is part of the business scene, but we don't publish anything like the Hamburg guide."

I put the question to them after seeing the English edition of Hamburg City Council's guide to their fair city, which includes a section on the Reeperbahn.

The basic rule is to realize that one cannot buy a luxury cabriolet for the price of an old second-hand Mini. Avoid the cheap bars and low class hotels around the Hans-Albert-Platz and on the fish market.

In the smart contact cafes like the Lausen and the Mehler, in bars of such hotels as the Luxor, Nobistor, Clubhotel, Columbus and Princess you can meet excitingly beautiful and well-dressed girls and you will have no trouble with these "lovelies".

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Ernie became a millionaire yesterday at the ripe old age of 24, when the Department of National Savings announced that the value of unclaimed Premium Bond prizes exceeded £1m for the first time since the draw in June 1957.

There are 27,522 prizes outstanding, whose total value is £1,007,075. The highest value prizes are of £5,000 and £25 of £1,000, although most are of £25 and £50.

The cash, the department told me yesterday, cannot be reinvested in Ernie because there is no time limit for the claiming of prizes. The winner can have them at any time, however belatedly. This is just as well, as some of the money has been sloshing around since Year One.

So far, Ernie's biggest prize—the monthly £250,000—has always been claimed, as have the weekly £100,000 and £50,000 and £25,000 jackpots. More than 27 million prizes worth over £73m have been paid out. Unclaimed prizes are listed quarterly in the London Gazette Supplement and at main post offices.

Considering how little Roy Jenkins is supposed to have helped himself as a politician by his taste for high life and fine claret, some were surprised to see that other under-employed politician and would-be Centrist, Edward Heath, singing for his supper at an ostentatious event at the Mansion House this week.

The occasion was a dinner to launch a Hennessy brandy called Paradis, which is to retail at the exceptional price of £65 a bottle.

Heath's speech, nominally on the theme of European unity, was of no great profundity, but he did suggest that to cement Anglo-French relations Paradis should be speck with a final "e", like Concordia.

Lord Windlesham, Heath's Minister of State for Northern Ireland and subsequently Lord Privy Seal and Leader of the Lords, is a direct descendant of the Richard Hennessy who founded the company.

The British Airways office in Buckingham Palace Road, London, has received from a publisher of directories a parcel of books addressed to "Birmingham Palace Road". Perhaps the sender should consult his own directories.

Ross Davies

Raeburn Investment Trust Limited

Year ended 30th November	1980	1979
Value of net assets	£57,375,022	£41,850,104
Gross revenue	£3,323,460	£3,391,876
Per 25p Stock unit:-		
Net asset value	215.6p	157.5p
Earnings	6.94p	5.81p
Dividend	6.35p	5.45p*

*excluding special dividends of 0.90p

The Chairman, Mr. D. Meinertzhagen, comments: In contrast to many aspects of the UK economy itself, the London equity market was buoyant and rose by some 33 per cent. during the year. The same can be said of Wall Street where the Standard & Poors composite index rose by 32 per cent. The net asset value of our ordinary stock units has risen by 36.9 per cent, to 215.6p.

Gross revenue declined slightly, largely because of a reduction in deposit interest received. However, it has proved possible to consolidate the strong advance in revenue achieved in 1979 which included special non-recurring dividends following the ending of dividend controls. Earnings per ordinary stock unit have in consequence risen to 6.94p against 5.81p excluding the non-recurring income of 0.9p.

While it is unlikely that the company's revenue will continue to improve in the manner of the last two years and may even decline, given the present economic difficulties and probably lower interest rates, the revenue reserves remain considerable and with this in mind, the Board are recommending a final of 6.35p which together with 2.0p paid at the interim stage, makes a total of 8.35p. Thus, shareholders will receive a payment which matches last year's dividend including the special dividend in respect of non-recurring dividends received.

Copies of the Report and Accounts are available from the Secretaries, Lazard Brothers & Co. Limited, 21 Moorfilds, London EC2P 2HT.

FINANCIAL NEWS

Stock markets

Equities lower on short-term profit-taking

After early attempts at extending recent gains, the market suddenly retreated yesterday as investors, apparently nervous of recent warnings on the economy, withdrew their support.

Two days of selective buying in a thin market quickly evaporated as short-term operators took their profits after further consideration of the CBI's latest short-term outlook for the economy, which made gloomy reading.

Nevertheless, dealers reported that the undercurrent remained firm with only small amounts of stock on offer. Interest was still apparent in some of the more popular sectors, including oil, electricals and insurance, but even these closed below their best.

After being only 0.3 down at 10 am, the FT Index drifted steadily throughout the day, to close 8.0 down at 459.4. Market activity was disturbed around lunchtime by news that Lonrho had launched a £225m bid for the shares in House of Fraser. It does not appear whether the ousting of Sir Hugh Fraser as chairman and his replacement by Professor Roland Smith.

Initial reaction from the jobbers was one of anger at the "badly handled" announcement, followed by one of scepticism of Lonrho's ability to finance the deal. Shares of Fraser were marked up 25p in the wake of the 130p-a-share offer, but settled at 41p amid selling by several institutions, a net rise on the day of 22p. Lonrho, on the other hand, closed 2p lighter at 97p.

Business after hours was also interrupted by the surprise bid for Robertson Foods, up 41p at

140p, by Avana Foods, which closed 20p lower at 192p. Selling in gilts by investors anxious to apply for the new "tap" brought a sharp halt to the previous day's rally. Dealers believe that over £600m of the £1,000m of stock

Wilkins & Mitchell, the Midlands "Servis" domestic appliance manufacturer whose shares were languishing at 24p recently, saw the price rise 4p to 39p on local buying which triggered bid rumours. The board, which announced a £488,000 interim loss last October, were meeting yesterday afternoon.

Offered has been applied for, which means it will probably operate as a "tap" when dealers begin to bid. In long, initial rises of around £1 gave way to nervous selling which saw prices close unchanged on the day. At the shorter end, full range around £1 were reported after earlier rises of 5p.

Leading industrial shares fared better than of late, but turned easier at the close. ICI ended

4p lighter at 286p on reports of layoffs totalling 6,000 with similar losses in Bechem at 196p and Glaxo at 256p. Further reports that a leading engineering group had its bid to the wall saw falls in GKN, 9p lower at 134p, Tube Investments, 6p off at 132p, and John Brown, 3p down at 60p.

Reed International, which reported recently, held steady at 183p but BAT, reporting soon, eased 2p to 251p.

Among companies reporting yesterday, Louis Newmark fell 5p to 35p, Whitworth Elec, 5p to 56p, Scottish, English and European Textiles, 4p to 65p, and DF Bevan, 2p to 15p.

Consideration of recent figures saw MFI rally 1p to 15p, while in foods, Glass, Oliver, eased 3p to 57p, but Associated Dairies saw another 2p to 180p in the wake of its £45m cash call. F. Pratt, reporting today, climbed 3p to 53p, along with Horizon Travel, adding 3p to 165p. Shares Greenbank, suspended in December, were quoted 66p-higher at 151p after a bid from Malton Finance, an arm of brokers Rowe Rudd.

But continuing fears over the resistance to the bid from Enserch lowered Davy Corp 5p to 144p. In papers, International Thomson jumped 10p to 295p encouraged by its imminent disposal of The Times and The Sunday Times, and

Dawson International, the cashmere knitwear group, bucked the market trend yesterday and held at 139p encouraged by a bid for circular knitwear part of the group's success in the recession as its ability to expand export sales, particularly to Europe, while cutting back on less profitable merchandising and processing.

Hawthorn Leslie added 1p to 136p over resistance to the bid from Starwest. Speculative attention lifted Austin Reed "A" 4p to 74p, Sharna Ware 8p to 128p, Gripperoids 12p to 124p, Oxford 4p to 72p. Milford Docks was firm at 100p after 103p. But profit-taking after recent strong support had Thomas Tilling 10p easier at 138p.

In building speculative attention had Tilbury Construction

10p up at 168p with Richards & Wallington unchanged at 28p, after 31p. Press comment boosted Aberdeen Construction 5p to 154p.

News of plans for a £1 coin had Birmingham Mint, a contractor for the Royal Mint, jumping 2p to 200p. Bremner expanded 2p to 59p on news of the House of Fraser bid. Sir Hugh Fraser is reported to have a substantial stake in the company.

Electricals saw further nervousness in local, ahead of today's statement, sliding 3p to 305p, while profit-taking clipped 2p from GEC at 598p. Bright spots were seen in STC, 5p heavier at 434p, and Eurochem International, 2p dearer at 248p, the latter on recent figures which proved better than expected.

Gold shares retreated after a confident start, under the latest fall in the bullion price, down 57 at \$524.50, leaving a fairly mixed appearance at the close. Equity turnover on January 27 was £126.946m (16,429 bargains). Active stocks yesterday according to the Exchange Telegraph, were:

Associated Dairies, Thomas Tilling, Premier Cons, Shell, BICC, European Ferries, Horizon Travel, Thorn EMI, Bass, BP, Barclays, Distillers, GKN and KCA Inc. Traded options: Dealers reported increased activity with total contracts up from 1,186 to 1,235. Lonrho's bid for House of Fraser attracted 1,060 contracts in the former, with BP, its nearest contender, on 74. Traditional options experienced only moderate interest, although calls were made in Lonrho at 9p, Simmer & Jack at 31p and Premier at 91p.

Louis Newmark expects fall in second half

The results, said Mr Geoffrey Newmark, chairman, are in line with the board's original forecast made at the end of last year. Looking ahead, he said yesterday that a reduction in second-half profits is expected as the recession is lasting longer and biting deeper than expected. A fall off in consumer sales is likely, he said.

The group has not provided a breakdown of manufacturing or merchandising operations, for the first half, but the profit split is traditionally 60 per cent from manufacturing and 40 per cent from distribution and imports. However, the last six months has seen a shift in the pattern with a drop in sales from divisions producing for consumer markets.

But this has been compensated for by increased activities from defence and high technology departments, Mr Newmark said. The first half got off to a good start with a contract worth £4m from the Ministry of Defence for equipment for all "Hawk" aircraft of the Royal Air Force.

The board said at the time that if consumer products held up—the group also distributes specialist equipment, needles and accessories for the textile and footwear industries—it would better profits at this half year stage.

Last year to March 29 the group experienced problems from the engineering strike but was able to report a 17 per cent increase in pretax profits

D F Bevan halves interim dividend and expects loss

A tale familiar for its sectors was reported yesterday by D. F. Bevan, the West Midlands metal merchants, stockholders and engineers.

The interim gross dividend has been halved in the six months to September and Mr John Wardle, the chairman, warned shareholders that the group would be making losses at the end of the year. Pretax profits were knocked from £252,000 to £25,000. Sales, however, increased from £6.86m to £7.7m. Although trading profits were reduced by about half, from £337,000 to £169,000, the real burden was interest

charges which increased from £85,000 to £144,000. The dividend is down to 0.35 compared with 0.71p.

The shares slid 2p to 15p. Mr Wardle blamed reduced demand in volume terms, the acute pressure on margins, and higher interest charges for lower profits. With the prospects staying steadily poor in the second half, he expected "not insubstantial loss" in the face of another six months of recessionary conditions. This compared with only four months of the last period which had seen difficult trading.

Rowe Rudd to buy Greenbank

By Catherine Gunn

As the first move in Rowe Rudd's plans to abandon stockbroking in favour of corporate finance and other services, a private financial company controlled by two Rowe Rudd partners and an associate is to take over Greenbank Trust.

Malton Finance, Services yesterday announced a new cash bid for Greenbank worth around £1m. Malton, controlled by Rowe Rudd partners, Mr Tony Rudd, and Mr Gerald Postgate, has agreed to pay 12p per cent of the net tangible value of Greenbank. According to Greenbank's board that would have valued the trust at 132p a share—or £1.06m—on December 31. Mr Tony Rudd said yesterday that Malton had received pledges to accept the offer from 51 per cent of Greenbank's shareholders mainly clients of the trust's bankers, Rathbone Bros.

Greenbank's shares returned from suspension yesterday at 127p and raced up to 151p during the morning, against a new suspension price of 85p, on December 2. The offer document will go out to Greenbank shareholders within a fortnight and will reveal details of other investors in Malton.

When the acquisition of Greenbank is completed, Malton will release details of a plan to set up a corporate finance business, using the 15 per cent of Greenbank's assets that the law allows investment trusts to put into unquoted businesses without losing their authorised status.

Once that is done Greenbank will consider buying some of the assets of the dissolving Rowe Rudd broking partnership. Rowe Rudd withdrew from broking on March 13. Mr Tony Rudd said yesterday that the series of developments planned around Greenbank should be completed some time in April.

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Ewart nominates two directors

Ewart New Northern shareholders have been asked by the board to elect Mr Andrew Hurl Smith, senior partner with Capel-Cure Myers, the company's broker, and Mr R. I. Huston, managing director of McLoughlin & Harvey, as directors on an extraordinary meeting on February 12.

The meeting was called after the adjournment of a resolution submitted at the annual meeting last September to appoint Mr Somerset Gibbs as a director after shareholder opposition to the appointment. Mr Gibbs has since withdrawn his name.

Bank Base Rates

ABN Bank	14%
Barclays	14%
BCCI	14%
Consolidated Credits	14%
C. Hoare & Co	14%
Lloyds Bank	14%
Midland Bank	14%
Nat Westminster	14%
Rossminster	14%
TSB	14%
Williams and Glyn's	14%

* 7 day deposit on sum of £10,000, annual rate 11%, £25,000 12%, £50,000 13%.

Trust may switch funds overseas

By Our Financial Staff

Throgmorton Trust, the specialist in smaller companies from the Keyser Ullman stable, is now thinking of switching funds overseas because of the "rapid decline of United Kingdom industry".

Pretax profits in the year to November 30 rose by 8.3 per cent to £3.94m and the year's dividend has been increased from 7.33p to 8.57p gross. Net assets value has also risen by over one fifth, from 105p to 127p.

Throgmorton has been steadily reducing its exposure in traditional areas of manufacturing industry to invest in growing companies in service industry or involved in higher technology. As part of this policy Throgmorton bought Capital for Industry last March whose portfolio has been revalued, contributing towards the rise in asset backing. Throgmorton has benefited particularly from CFI's stake in Cray Electronics, whose shares have risen more than two and a half times since last March.

Throgmorton is still committed to investing in smaller companies and says there are signs of "vigorous enterprise at the grass roots of industry". However, the board has become more pessimistic about prospects for manufacturing industry, hence the proposal to look overseas.



Photograph by Charles Milligan

Redman Heenan International annual meeting: Mr Angus Murray, chairman, talking to accountancy and finance students including Miss Christine Knubley yesterday in London after the close of business. The 19 students and three lecturers from Luton College of Higher Education had asked if they could attend the meeting to see a

British company's annual meeting in action and they took the opportunity to question the board at the Connaught Rooms.

Last year Redman Heenan produced pretax profits of £2.7m on turnover of £42.1m and Mr Murray pointed out that the result was affected by reduced profitability on exports, reorganization costs as well as a general reduction in margins.

Hawthorn, Leslie spurns bid

By Our Financial Staff

Admiral Sir Horace Law, chairman of R. & W. Hawthorn, Leslie, has written to shareholders strongly recommending rejection of a £3.75m bid by Starwest Investment Holdings. The board believes the offer document is "opportunist and inadequate", he says.

Investment group M & G, which holds 24.6 per cent of Hawthorn, Leslie, said last night that it would be backing the present board against the 130p-a-share bid. Yesterday the shares closed at 136p.

Starwest, a private company controlled by Mr Ramo Diori, also offered a 45p a share for the preference capital. The Prudential has a 7.7 per cent stake. Directors of Hawthorn, Leslie intend to reject the bid on behalf of their own 5.6 per cent holdings. Starwest has 41.5 per cent of the equity. The closing date for acceptances is February 9.

Past offers from Starwest for other groups have been overtaken by successful counterbids. Mr Neil List, a director of Hawthorn, Leslie, said yesterday that the group was not talking to anyone else at present. "The best future for Hawthorn, Leslie is as an independent unit", he said.

Sir Horace Law's letter warns shareholders to expect poor interim figures to December 31, companies and have a life of 15 years. The subscription price for the Siemens shares would be fixed at the average stock exchange price applying in the ten days before eventual flotation of the loan.

Siemens said this issue is intended to finance its growing international business abroad and attract new shareholders. As such it might be an alternative investment medium for foreign investors.

Siemens said a conditional capital of DM125m would be offered to cover the loan. The loan would be floated by one of Siemens' overseas financing

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Briefly

Assam Trading (Holdings): A letter to shareholders said that recent property transactions have left the overall net asset value of the company virtually unchanged. It has achieved an immediate increase in net annual rental income of £42,700 although the full benefit of this will be reflected only at the year end. South Roadport, Main Reef Areas: Pretax profits for quarter to September 30, 1980, £254,000 (£149,000). For year to June 30, 1980, revised pretax profit is £38,000 (£49,000). Witwatersrand, Nigel: Pretax profits for quarter to December 31, 1980, £1.2m (£668,000), compared with £673,000 (£374,000) for quarter to September 30, 1980 and £3.25m (£1.81m) for year to June 30, 1980. Scottish American Investment: Gross income for year to December 31, 1980, £5.23m (£4.62m). Net income, £2.3m (£1.88m). Total gross payment, 5.7p (5p). Asidown Investment Trust: Total revenue for year to November 30, 1980, £1.32m (£1.13m). Pretax profits, £1.14m (£1.15m). Total dividend, 8.85p (£1.15m), including special dividend of 1.42p. First Castle Electronics has recently issued full details of acquisition of Fleetworld initial consideration for £300,000 in shares. M. J. Gleeson (Contractors): Mr J. F. Gleeson, chairman, told the annual meeting that the company's share price has been becoming still more active and that the board could be sure that current levels of turnover will be maintained in the year to June, 1981. Group's profit prospect for the next year or two will become more dependent on the final settlement of past contracts and its increasing activities in the private sector.

Siemens slips, but dividend held

From Peter Norman Bonn

Siemens, West Germany's largest electrical group, announced yesterday that it plans to pay an unchanged dividend of DM8 per share (10.50 nominal share for the year to September 30, 1980, on capital increased to DM1,910m from DM1,770m).

At the same time, it released figures suggesting that parent company net earnings dropped by DM50m (£11m) over the year. After payment of DM130m to cover the dividend, the company will be able to put only DM181m of last year's profit into open reserves, against DM244m the year before.

Notwithstanding this setback, Siemens is to ask its shareholders at the annual meeting on March 19 for authorization

International

to raise equity in three operations before March 1986.

It is seeking approval for a rights issue of up to DM250m of nominal capital to be offered to shareholders either wholly or in parts within a five-year period. The new shares would be offered at no more than DM100 each, but Siemens said use of the facility would not be made this year.

The group is also seeking approval for the issue of a debenture with warrants of up to £250m, or the equivalent in other currencies, in the period up to March 1, 1986. The loan would be floated by one of Siemens' overseas financing

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Hamersley outlook gloomy

Australian iron ore producer Hamersley Holdings said, a downturn in profits in the second half of 1980, reflecting a recession in the Japanese and European steel industries, would continue this year.

Pretax profits for 1980 rose by 83 per cent, but the second half of the year provided only AS\$15.5m (£7.7m) net profit out of the year's total of AS\$57.2m. The company said the rise in annual profits resulted from

a 29.4 per cent increase in iron ore shipped to 38.9 million tonnes and higher average prices, offset in part by a less favourable exchange rate due to the appreciation of the Australian dollar against the United States dollar.

Saleable ore produced rose by 20.3 per cent to AS\$39.4m. A final dividend of 7 cents a share has been declared, making a total for the year of 16 cents, against 8 cents in 1979.

Japanese buy coal stake

Japan's six leading steel companies and Mitsui and Co have agreed to acquire a 40 per cent stake in a \$C150m (£62.9m) project to recover coking coal from Alberta's Gregg River district.

The Japanese companies, which signed with Alberta's Gregg River Resources Ltd, agreed to bear 40 per cent of the cost of the project.

Industrial sources said the Japanese companies agreed to buy 2.1m tonnes of coking coal from the project for 15 years from 1983.

The sources said the price was \$C73.50 a tonne but was subject to an escalation clause,

which would rise with wages and other costs.

The agreement follows two others signed this week between Canadian companies and a consortium of 10 Japanese steel and gas concerns by which the Japanese will buy 5m tonnes of coking coal and 1m tonnes of steam coal from the Quinette mine, and 1.7m tonnes of coking coal from the Bullmoose mine, both in British Columbia.

Canadian sources said that with the agreements signed this week, Canada will have 25 per cent of the Japanese coal market by 1985 against 19 per cent now.

Unisec rejects Sage

The board of Johannesburg-based Unisec, considers the offer price from Sage Holdings is little different from that previously rejected, and that the new proposals involve a greater degree of uncertainty. Unisec Sage lodges with the board of Unisec an offer document which contains all details of the offer, the Unisec board is unable to comment in full on the offer.

Unisec believes that the Sage offer cannot be assessed properly by shareholders until the 1980 results, at least, are announced. Unisec strongly advises its shareholders to await further developments.

Volvo setback in 1980

AB Volvo reports a group profit after financial income and expenditures of 950m Kr (£37.9m) for 1980, against 1,240m Kr. Group sales were 23,600m Kr compared with 23,470m Kr. The dividend is held at 8 Kr. Adjusted income per share was 22.40 Kr against 29.40 Kr. Gross capital investment reached 1,550m Kr compared with 962m last year.

Fourth-quarter income after financial items was 144m Kr, against 383m Kr, corresponding to 2.2 per cent against 5.8 per cent of sales.

Property group plans listing

A new property group formed from a mixture of dormant and operating companies plans to raise £3m through a placing next month. The group, Espley-Tyas Property, is seeking a Stock Exchange listing and hopes to start dealings in 4m shares set early in March. Carr Seabag is placing the shares at 75p on February 23.

Espley-Tyas has been put together by Mr Ronald Shuck, chairman from retail group Queen Street, whose shares were suspended in 1979 and whose last store closed two years ago; Clover Croft & State, a former spinning group which has re-registered under the Espley-Tyas name; and investment property group Consult, owned by Mr Shuck.

The new group is forecasting pretax profits of £1.6m at September 30, 1981, and a dividend of 3.3p. Some £920,000 of that profit will be capitalized as Consult's current projects are completed and the profits exchanged for shares held by Mr Shuck. He now has 20.1 per cent of the equity, but will eventually hold 50.3 per cent.

A proforma balance sheet shows net assets of £5.4m, gross debt of £5.91m and cash in hand of £1.8m.

Kangra raises Renwick holding

Kangra International Holdings, which recently gained control of the Renwick Group,

has slightly increased its holding. On Tuesday, Kangra bought 95,000 ordinary shares (10.63 per cent) at 32p each, 75,000 4.9 per cent preference at 109p each and 1,000 10p per cent preference at 261p each. Kangra now owns 5.8m ordinary shares, as well as the preference stock acquired, which equals 52.92 per cent of the total share capital of all classes. Kangra is now making an offer for the capital not already owned.

Lifting the interim dividend from 1.14p to 1.28p, the chairman, Mr J. H. Mackenzie, reports trading in the second half continues to be "satisfactory". SEET's shares rose by 4p to 65p on the news.

MP Kent in Bristol office deal

The board of M. P. Kent has forward sold a 74,000 sq ft office scheme at present under construction at Old Market, Bristol. The purchasers are Clerical, Medical and General Life Assurance Society which is paying £7.25m in stages during the building period. Completion is due for mid-1982.

Business appointments

As a result of Centre Hotels and Old Kentucky Restaurants merging with Crest Hotels, Mr G. R. Hill and Mr R. F. E. Jones will join the board of Centre Hotels and Mr G. R. Hill will become chairman.

Centre Hotels will continue to be owned by the parent company, the parent and central financing company for the North American activities of Consolidated Gold Fields, London. Mr Jones will join the board of Centre Hotels and Mr G. R. Hill will become chairman.

Mr David Pike becomes chairman and chief executive of Liberty & Co on February 1 in succession to Mr Arthur J. Stewart-Liberty who retires from the chair, but continues as a non-executive director.

Mr E. Wynn Owen has been elected chairman of the Life Offices' Association.

SEET continues to flout recession

After record pretax profits of £1.4m in 1979-80, Scottish, English and European Textiles is still not letting the recession stand in its way. It raised profits in the half-year to October 31 by 3.7 per cent to £672,000.

Group turnover was 9 per cent higher at £6.85m, with exports accounting for over 64 per cent of this. However, margins, on a pretax basis, are slightly lower at 9.8 per cent, compared with 10.3 per cent last time.

Lifting the interim dividend from 1.14p to 1.28p, the chairman, Mr J. H. Mackenzie, reports trading in the second half continues to be "satisfactory". SEET's shares rose by 4p to 6

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MARKET REPORTS

Commodities

COPPER was steady after a morning of volatility. The London market was at 117.75, up from 117.50. The New York market was at 117.75, up from 117.50. The Chicago market was at 117.75, up from 117.50. The Tokyo market was at 117.75, up from 117.50. The Sydney market was at 117.75, up from 117.50. The Hong Kong market was at 117.75, up from 117.50. The Seoul market was at 117.75, up from 117.50. The Taipei market was at 117.75, up from 117.50. The Manila market was at 117.75, up from 117.50. The Jakarta market was at 117.75, up from 117.50. The Singapore market was at 117.75, up from 117.50. The Kuala Lumpur market was at 117.75, up from 117.50. The Bangkok market was at 117.75, up from 117.50. The Colombo market was at 117.75, up from 117.50. The Ceylon market was at 117.75, up from 117.50. The Sri Lanka market was at 117.75, up from 117.50. The Maldives market was at 117.75, up from 117.50. The Mauritius market was at 117.75, up from 117.50. The Seychelles market was at 117.75, up from 117.50. The Zanzibar market was at 117.75, up from 117.50. The Pemba market was at 117.75, up from 117.50. The Comoros market was at 117.75, up from 117.50. The Madagascar market was at 117.75, up from 117.50. The Reunion market was at 117.75, up from 117.50. The Mayotte market was at 117.75, up from 117.50. The Djibouti market was at 117.75, up from 117.50. The Eritrea market was at 117.75, up from 117.50. The Ethiopia market was at 117.75, up from 117.50. The Somalia market was at 117.75, up from 117.50. The Kenya market was at 117.75, up from 117.50. The Tanzania market was at 117.75, up from 117.50. The Uganda market was at 117.75, up from 117.50. The Rwanda market was at 117.75, up from 117.50. The Burundi market was at 117.75, up from 117.50. The Malawi market was at 117.75, up from 117.50. The Zambia market was at 117.75, up from 117.50. The Botswana market was at 117.75, up from 117.50. The Namibia market was at 117.75, up from 117.50. The South Africa market was at 117.75, up from 117.50. The Lesotho market was at 117.75, up from 117.50. The Swaziland market was at 117.75, up from 117.50. The Mozambique market was at 117.75, up from 117.50. The Zimbabwe market was at 117.75, up from 117.50. The Maldives market was at 117.75, up from 117.50. The Mauritius market was at 117.75, up from 117.50. The Seychelles market was at 117.75, up from 117.50. The Zanzibar market was at 117.75, up from 117.50. The Pemba market was at 117.75, up from 117.50. The Comoros market was at 117.75, up from 117.50. The Madagascar market was at 117.75, up from 117.50. The Reunion market was at 117.75, up from 117.50. The Mayotte market was at 117.75, up from 117.50. The Djibouti market was at 117.75, up from 117.50. The Eritrea market was at 117.75, up from 117.50. The Ethiopia market was at 117.75, up from 117.50. The Somalia market was at 117.75, up from 117.50. The Kenya market was at 117.75, up from 117.50. The Tanzania market was at 117.75, up from 117.50. The Uganda market was at 117.75, up from 117.50. The Rwanda market was at 117.75, up from 117.50. The Burundi market was at 117.75, up from 117.50. The Malawi market was at 117.75, up from 117.50. The Zambia market was at 117.75, up from 117.50. The Botswana market was at 117.75, up from 117.50. The Namibia market was at 117.75, up from 117.50. The South Africa market was at 117.75, up from 117.50. The Lesotho market was at 117.75, up from 117.50. The Swaziland market was at 117.75, up from 117.50. The Mozambique market was at 117.75, up from 117.50. The Zimbabwe market was at 117.75, up from 117.50.

World grain prices likely to increase

World grain prices are likely to continue rising throughout the 1980-81 season, according to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). A report by the OECD agriculture committee attributed the likely increase to the small Soviet harvest and the sharp grain output and said these factors were also likely to bring a sharp reduction in end of season stocks. It quoted the Food and Agriculture Organization as saying that stocks were likely to fall to 207 million tonnes at the end of 1980-81 compared with 244 million tonnes at the end of 1979-80. The OECD said total production of coarse grains in its 24 member countries in 1980-81 were sharply reduced, and the wheat harvest is well below average.

Quoting International Wheat Council figures, the report estimated 1980 world wheat output at 430 million tonnes.

Eurosyndicat The Eurosyndicat index on European share prices was put provisionally at 146.32 on January 27 against 147.85 a week earlier.

Discount market

It was a flat day for the discount market yesterday. Credit proved to be in adequate supply, so no intervention was required of the authorities. The one factor likely to have caused any disruption was the issue of the new convertible "20" stock.

In the event, this proved to have been just about 50 per cent subscribed, according to market estimates.

Sterling: Spot and Forward

Market rates (January 28) 1 month 2 months 3 months 6 months 12 months 18 months 24 months 36 months 48 months 60 months 72 months 84 months 96 months 108 months 120 months 132 months 144 months 156 months 168 months 180 months 192 months 204 months 216 months 228 months 240 months 252 months 264 months 276 months 288 months 300 months 312 months 324 months 336 months 348 months 360 months 372 months 384 months 396 months 408 months 420 months 432 months 444 months 456 months 468 months 480 months 492 months 504 months 516 months 528 months 540 months 552 months 564 months 576 months 588 months 600 months 612 months 624 months 636 months 648 months 660 months 672 months 684 months 696 months 708 months 720 months 732 months 744 months 756 months 768 months 780 months 792 months 804 months 816 months 828 months 840 months 852 months 864 months 876 months 888 months 900 months 912 months 924 months 936 months 948 months 960 months 972 months 984 months 996 months 1008 months 1020 months 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-Managerial-Administrative-Secretarial-Personal Assistants-

Secretary

Cable & Wireless, the successful British Group in Holborn, has an interesting opening for a mature Secretary.

This vacancy is within the Department that handles all the Company's financial affairs.

As Secretary to two Department Managers your duties will include secretarial, administrative and clerical tasks, and you will be required to exercise initiative and judgement in a manner that is both pleasant and efficient.

Our salaries are on an incremental scale starting at £5,400, with 20 days annual holiday.

We offer excellent conditions of service and benefits include an extra days leave at Christmas and Easter, subsidised staff canteen and snack bar, flexible working hours and an interest-free season ticket loan.

Please apply to:-

Recruitment Manager, Dept A.907
Cable & Wireless Limited,
Mercury House, Theobalds Road,
London WC1X 8RX.

Tel: 01-242 4433, Ext. 4008.

Cable & Wireless
Helps the world communicate

VARIETY, PRESTIGE, PROSPECTS

And Up To £6,500 p.a.

If you are bored with routine and looking for variety you should consider this career opportunity for

Currently a successful executive secretary, used to responsibility and pressure, you will find a new challenge in this exciting and varied role. Being smart and efficient, you will also welcome the challenge of working for a dynamic Director of this international freight forwarding organisation based in West London.

As his Personal Assistant you will need to organise his daily routine and act as a liaison between him and his staff. You will also be responsible for his business meetings, travel arrangements and dealing with any problems that may arise.

This is not only a chance for you to create your own role within this company, but also an excellent prospect if you can prove your independence.

If you have the secretarial skills, initiative and personality to match this exciting environment, make your career move now. Write to Sue White, Cripps, Sears, Watson, London, WC1V 6LN. Telephone 01-404 5761 (24 hours).

Cripps, Sears

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Enjoy cheese and wine while we find the job suited to your personality, skills, and required salary. We are in touch with over 700 clients and in addition have the back-up of the Alangate SPECIALIST Group. From our current job selection are 2 immediately available.

P.A. Sec... W1... £6,000 +
Sec/Admin. for Trading Div. £5,500
Telephone Monique Spiering
01-240 5464
or just come in
Alangate Emp. Ag.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Circa £7500

Efficient person over 30 living in London required to run all aspects of medium-sized company in S.W.1, i.e. personnel general organisation. Experience and good skills necessary. This is a position requiring a person with initiative and organisational ability who enjoys dealing with people and solving problems.

Reply with CV and date of birth to

Box 2621 F, The Times.

Use the Postcode.

You're not properly addressed without it!

Royal Mail

FILMS-£6,000

An efficient, helpful and charming boss is looking for a competent Audio Secretary. Whilst you will be busy with his correspondence, you will be able to get involved in his interesting projects. This is a bright company with lovely offices in Oxford Square, London, W.1. You will have 60+ typing and be able to communicate at all levels. Ring 437 1728.

Crone Corkill
Recruitment Consultants

CAREER IN PERSONNEL

A lively secretary (mid 30s) with experience in personnel is needed to assist in the recruitment of staff. You will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the personnel department. You will also be responsible for the recruitment of staff. You will have 60+ typing and be able to communicate at all levels. Ring 437 1728.

JAYGARR
Recruitment Consultants

SEC/ADMINISTRATION

Organise the hectic world of their creative partners. You will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the personnel department. You will also be responsible for the recruitment of staff. You will have 60+ typing and be able to communicate at all levels. Ring 437 1728.

Diane Hilton
58-60 Houndsditch, E.C.3

VARIETASIAN AIRLINES

are looking for a
SECRETARY
for the Marketing Liaison Manager, dealing with Press and Public Relations. Good shorthand and typing skills are required, plus a good telephone manner. Also the ability to work on own initiative.
Salary £5,000 +, luncheon vouchers, and concessionary travel benefits.
Please phone Tina Watson on 629 8408, extension 223.

CORDON BLEU COOKS FOR VILLAS

Small World need young people, 21-26, with Cordon Bleu or similar experience of cooking for numbers 10 to 20 guests a week. Must be able to cook in French and Portuguese this summer.
Ring Marion on 01-240 3223

TIP TOP SEC

£5,500 + help with fees.
Excellent shorthand typing skills essential to assist Managing Director and Personnel Officer of this City company.
TIME AND PLACE EMP AGY
401 9151

BACKGROUND IN BROKING

£6,500
The M.D. of an international City company seeks a secretarial assistant to help on the day-to-day running of the company. You will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the personnel department. You will also be responsible for the recruitment of staff. You will have 60+ typing and be able to communicate at all levels. Ring 437 1728.

Graduate Girls Secretarial
01-621 0566

PA/SECRETARY

Required for very busy small bank consultancy centrally situated in Kensington but moving to City area. Applicant must be happy working alone and accepting responsibility. 4 weeks holiday + PPP membership. Salary neg. Age 25+.

TEL: SALLY WATTS
01-637 1885/9706

BANKING-EC2 £7,300

The top Secretary of this European Representative Office has been seconded abroad and therefore needs an equally efficient successor. Spends 100% abroad. Age 25/40.

SPORTS/SPONSORSHIP

£6,500
The public affairs department of this large multinational company needs a Secretary to cope with a high volume of work. Spends 110/90. Age 23-30.

ANGELA MORTIMER LTD
Recruitment Consultants

229 8648
168 Piccadilly

COMMODITY BROKING

£6,000 neg.

Can you cope with the quiet as well as the busy times? Do you want to put your skills to good use and move into the world of buying and selling? If so and you are 25-35, career-minded and willing to take the rough with the smooth please ring Fiona McLaren

ALBEMARLE APPOINTMENTS
01-433 6000

SOIL LABORATORY ENGINEER

CIVIL ENGINEER HIGHWAYS SURVEYOR

Required by Saudi Arabian contractor for immediate start on 3-month trial period. Must have minimum of 5 years experience for each position. Excellent salary. For more details please telephone

01-935 1701

SECRETARY FOR SENIOR PARTNER

International firm of Surveyors and Valuers requires Secretary. Applicants must be able to work on own initiative and have good secretarial skills, especially typing. Salary £5,500. Apply in writing to:

MRS P. A. BAYNES
EDWARD HUSKINSON & KENYON,
18 CARLOS PLACE,
BOSTON SQUARE,
LONDON W1T 4BA.

£6,000/£6,500 S.W.1 & W.C.2

Intelligence and willingness to accept a new and varied position. Willingness to travel essential. Successful candidate will probably be 25-35. Please reply with C.V. to MISS PHARO, 11 COTTAGE, AVENUE, LONDON EC2N 7JL.

Contact Annie Roeder
The Work Programme
Recruitment Consultancy
404 5073

PERSONAL ASSISTANT EURO M.P.

£5,500

Busy Conservative M.P. with outside interests requires an Assistant. Languages useful. Willingness to travel essential. Successful candidate will probably be 25-35. Please reply with C.V. to MISS PHARO, 11 COTTAGE, AVENUE, LONDON EC2N 7JL.

PLEASE REPLY WITH C.V. TO MISS PHARO, 11 COTTAGE, AVENUE, LONDON EC2N 7JL.

SUPER SEC

£6,500 MINIMUM

£6,500 in the lowest starting salary! As a P.A. to a senior executive you will be full of interest and will be able to cope with a high volume of work. You will have 60+ typing and be able to communicate at all levels. Ring 437 1728.

PLEASE REPLY WITH C.V. TO MISS PHARO, 11 COTTAGE, AVENUE, LONDON EC2N 7JL.

PLEASE REPLY WITH C.V. TO MISS PHARO, 11 COTTAGE, AVENUE, LONDON EC2N 7JL.

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PROPERTY P.A.

A vacancy has arisen for a P.A./Secretary to the Senior Partner to work in our busy but pleasant Berkeley Square Offices.

The successful applicant will have plenty of experience, initiative and the ability to cope with all situations together with good secretarial skills (shorthand, audio, telex, word processor, etc.) and will probably have previously held a similar position in an estate agents or property company.

We are able to offer an outstanding salary package for the right applicant.

Please apply to ref: E.A.S.

CHARLES PRICE & CO
Estate Agents, Surveyors,
Property Management & Development Consultants
No.1 Berkeley Square, London W.1.
01-493 2222 (24 hrs)/491 3304
Telex: 267383

SECRETARY W.I.

We are looking for a Secretary for the Deputy Company Secretary of a large international organization with interests which include publishing, the travel industry and North Sea oil.

You will be efficient and methodical with good typing skills. Audio and/or shorthand experience is essential, although speed is less important than accuracy when dealing with legal documents and company records, where attention to detail is a must! Previous experience in stockbroking, banking, accounting or legal work is desirable but not essential. Age is not important but it is unlikely that anyone under 25 will have the maturity and experience required. In return we offer a salary of c. £5,500, 5 weeks' holiday, luncheon vouchers, subsidised staff restaurant and season ticket loan scheme.

Please write enclosing C.V. or telephone for an application form 22.

MRS SUSAN FARQUHARSON
THE THOMSON ORGANISATION LTD.,
4 Stratford Place, London, W1A 4YG.
Telephone 01-525 8117.

SECRETARY/PA TO CHIEF EXECUTIVE

One of Europe's largest Ladies' clothing manufacturers and retailers, require a first class Secretary/Personal Assistant for their Chief Executive to work in excellent conditions at head office in Milton Keynes.

Applicants must be experienced, efficient, well presented and have an appreciation of the confidentiality that the position demands.

For full details please contact Denis Floyd, Group Personnel Manager, Steinberg Group Ltd., Steinberg House, Kild Farm, Milton Keynes MK11 3EE. Tel.: Milton Keynes (0908) 565758.

Apply in writing to:

MRS P. A. BAYNES
EDWARD HUSKINSON & KENYON,
18 CARLOS PLACE,
BOSTON SQUARE,
LONDON W1T 4BA.

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Apply in writing, giving a.c. and details of relevant experience, to Mrs. J. Jowsey, Personnel Officer, Chessington Zoo, Chessington, Surrey.

P.A./SECRETARY

to work for one of the Deputy Secretaries to The Committee Of London Clearing Bankers who is also Head of Administration. The work involves close contact with senior officials in Banks, Government and Industry.

As well as the usual secretarial duties the applicant will be required to undertake research in connection with administration, preparation of papers for meetings and correspondence.

An ability to work with minimal guidance and to present work of a high standard with attention to detail is also required.

Experience with a large branch or head office of a Clearing Bank would be an advantage.

Age mid-thirties. Salary £8,500 approximately.

Please write with full details to: Staff Manager, The Committee Of London Clearing Bankers, 10 Lombard Street, London EC3V 9AP.

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